



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

Happy New Year WiVLA members and friends!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I'd like to wish you joy, creativity and prosperity for 2011.

Please join us on Tuesday, January 18th to celebrate the New Year together with cookies and punch from 6:00 – 6:15pm. Then, after our member announcements, five WiVLA leaders will talk about our efforts this past year, including financial planning, creating branding and business collateral, reviewing/revising by-laws and policies, and redesigning the website. We'll also update you on guidelines for the 2011 ECO Fund.



You received an electronic copy of the board-approved WiVLA Bylaws at the end of December. Please make sure to read them in advance of our January meeting. At that meeting, we'll be voting on the new bylaws.

It is my honor to be your President. Thank you for your continued support of WiVLA!

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

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

January 18, 2011, 6 pm
Museum of Printing History
1324 West Clay Street

Please join us for an interesting and informative evening as five of WiVLA's dynamic leaders present, discuss and interact with you about WiVLA's exciting future and your important role as a member! This is an vital member meeting that you won't want to miss. We will be celebrating the New Year with a short "cookies and punch" welcome starting at 6:00, so we'll see you on the 18th!

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

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear WiVLA Members,

How good it feels to write to you post graduation! While my adventure through academia was an unforgettable experience, I am happy to close that chapter of my life and begin writing new pages in 2011, both figuratively and literally. I resolve to journal more in the New Year and write the stories that have been stirring within me all the time when research papers and required readings took precedent. I look forward to making the most of my membership together with you.

Have a creative idea for the newsletter? Submit to newsletter@wivla.org.

Cheers,

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

Becky Soria's artwork will be featured in an exhibition at Archway Gallery January 2 – February 3, 2011. Opening reception January 8 from 5 to 8 pm. Artists' talk at 5:30 pm. 2305 Dunlavy.

Margaret Howell's body of 3D digital work, *Make Believe*, will be featured in her solo show February 5, 2011 at Galeria Regin, 1716 Richmond Ave. from 5 to 9 pm. Parking: Galeria Regina & DeSantos Gallery vacant lot (next door).

LITERARY CELEBRATIONS

Davi Walders's announces her upcoming book, *Women Against Tyranny: Poems of Resistance during the Holocaust* (Clemson University Digital Press). Walders credits the ECO Fund for helping fund the project.

Cary Reeder's painting *Shut In* has been selected for the 26th Annual International Exhibition at the University of Texas at Tyler. The show runs from January 18-March 4, 2011 at the Meadows Gallery on campus.

Sandi Stromberg has two poems in the fall/winter 2010 edition of *Illya's Honey*, published by the Dallas Poets Community: "Frogs Don't Sing Red" and "Turf."

Melanie Miller's article, "The Back Door," will be published in the Reader's Write section of *The Sun*, a national literary magazine based in Chapel Hill, NC, in April, 2011. This is a reworked version of a piece that aired on NPR's "This I Believe" program.

Humor

GOOD PLACES TO WRITE AND DRAW

By Cary Reeder

Cricket's Creamery and Café and 19th Street Shopping District

315 W. 19th Street,
713-869-9450

I have to fess up—I'm a coffee girl. The visit to the tea house just didn't feel right to me, so I am returning to familiar grounds. This month brings me to the charming Heights 19th Street shopping district and Cricket's Creamery. I have lived in the Heights for 13 years and during that time have observed the evolution of 19th Street. When I first moved here, the funky Kaldi Café held court where the classy Shade now stands. I loved Kaldi and spent many breakfasts there sharing the trials and tribulations of life with my best friend Amy. I mourned the closing of Kaldi for months and still hold a baseless grudge against Shade for occupying its former building. Although there have been changes, many of the same shops from that time are still around like Casa Ramirez and Venus Hair along with great new additions like Sew Crafty, the Lift, and 18 Hands Gallery.

As someone whose day job involves staring at a wall and computer screen in a windowless room while trying to write creative and wildly persuasive grant proposals, I am the first to acknowledge that writers need excitement! Furthermore, we need interesting things to look at. The same goes for artists. Cricket's Creamery and 19th Street has everything you need in the way of visual and auditory stimulation to get your creative juices flowing.

General Atmosphere: Cricket's is a sweet, homey, "old school" eatery, which is a nice counterpoint to the many hipster joints in the Heights. It reminds me of the old timey soda fountains you find in small towns throughout Texas. The décor is red, bright pastels, and black and white checkerboard with lots of natural light. I love everything about this place except for the background music. I'm a person who has a hard time tuning things out, especially things that I find annoying or grating. At Cricket's the station is tuned to Sunny 99.9 which means in between the not so great music, you are subjected to a good ten minutes of loud commercials. My advice is to bring the iPod rather than let this minor annoyance stop you from visiting.

Features: Cricket's has several booths, tables, a couch, an adults-only window seating area, and outside seating on 19th Street. My favorite part of visiting Cricket's is the people watching. While Houston does have a few non-mall shopping centers, 19th Street is a destination where people take out-of-towners to show them that Houston is a really cool place no matter what they have heard. From the window seat or patio, there is people-watching galore that is guaranteed to spark your imagination.



Coffee and Comestibles: Cricket's serves a full breakfast and lunch menu featuring many vegetarian and vegan choices. They also have a full range of coffee drinks, soda, and teas. If you want a treat after a long day of writing, drawing or creating, they have a variety of delicious gelatos and sorbetos. I can personally vouch for the yummy pumpkin latte and the gelato.

When to Go: I have been to Cricket's during weekday mornings and it is usually deserted, which is a shame. During my most recent visit, I was pleased to see two other people working on their laptops. Weekends are their busiest times, so if you need solitude to work, stick to weekdays. However, weekends are a great time to sketch the scene.

The Verdict: I like Cricket's Creamery a lot. It has the potential to be a great place to write and draw with a few tweaks. Add a few more people and change the soundtrack and Cricket's Creamery is perfect. I promise you, it's much better than staring at a wall.



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONTESTS

Join us on **Saturday, February 19, 2011**, for Literary Day. We will have two workshops: **Sarah Cortez** will give us ideas for capturing and enlivening our memories into memoir. **Sandi Stromberg** will show us how to gather poetic seeds, with writing exercises and some mechanisms to consider when writing a poem. For details, contact Corry Austin at corry@sbcglobal.net

Publishing opportunity for poets:
With our noisy marketplace of belief, how or where can

the sacred be found?
Mutabilis Press is seeking thoughtful and well-crafted poetry that explores this question for an anthology to be published in **Fall 2011**.
Guest editor: poet Martha Serpas, Submissions will be accepted from poets currently working in Texas and Louisiana.
See www.mutabilispress.org for submission guidelines.

Call for entries: "Funeral Party for the Living" will take place on New Year's Day at 5pm at 14 Pews, 800 Aurora St., Houston, TX 77009. The event will

include visitation and drinking, eulogy writing services, a funeral service open to the public to speak, sing, etc., a funeral sound procession, a funeral pyre for burning symbolic items contributed by the public, and a funeral food pot luck and recipe swap. Free and open to the public. Contact info.: emily@emilysloan.com, 713-582-1198. thelivingwake.blogspot.com or www.14pews.org



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Mission Statement

The mission of WivLA is 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.

WIVLA Literary Day – February 19, 2011

Writers and visual artists are invited to join us on February 19 for Literary Day. In the morning, Sandi Stromberg will show us how to use our creative processes when writing a poem. In the afternoon, Sarah Cortez will give us ideas for capturing our memories with prose in ways that are lively, engaging, and resonant. Both workshops will provide a welcoming atmosphere of instruction and encouragement. Please check www.wivla.org for more information, including location and times.

Members only. Cost is \$50 for both workshops or \$30 for individual workshops. Sign up now... space is limited.

Name:	
Telephone:	Email:

Please indicate which workshops you wish to attend:

Poetry workshop (\$30) <input type="checkbox"/>	Memoir workshop (\$30) <input type="checkbox"/>	Both workshops (\$50) <input type="checkbox"/>
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Please mail registration, with a personal check made out to WivLA, to:
 Corry Austin
 11658 Southlake Dr.
 Houston, TX 77077

For Questions: corry@sbcglobal.net, 281.731.2711 + earle@hotmail.com, 281.788.8007

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WiVLA – CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

January 11:
WiVLA Board Meeting

January 18:
WiVLA Membership
Meeting

February 14:
WiVLA Board Meeting

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

February 19:
WiVLA Literary Day

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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P.O. Box 130406
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Happy New Year