



JULY 2010

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.

JULY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Please Join Us for an Evening with Houston Artist Sandi Seltzer Bryant!

Sandi Seltzer Bryant's abstract paintings have always been a reflection of her life. In the 1970s and 1980s, her vocabulary of shapes represented mostly domestic issues. In the 1990s, her work reflected her travels in Europe and her life in the Netherlands, and since 2000, she references textiles with color, texture, and patterns assimilated from her travels in Mexico, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Russia, Morocco, Uzbekistan, Peru and Ecuador. In addition to being represented by McMurtrey Gallery, Bryant maintains a studio at Winter Street Studios. Her most recent news is that she is a finalist in The Hunting Art Prize 2010. Check out Sandi's website: www.sandiseltzerbryant.com

Gathering Time: 6 PM
Meeting Time: 6:15 – 7:15
Museum of Printing History
1324 West Clay Street
Houston, Texas 77019

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jeanne Haner

Greetings WivLA members and friends! Summer is upon us. Try to stay cool.

Thanks to Charles Criner, Artist in Residence at the Museum of Printing History, our June meeting was a success. Charles' engaging tour of the museum was as educational as it was fun.

We have a Visual and Literary Event planned in August at the Museum of Printing History. Please see the prospectus for the "Oasis" print show on the website, www.wivla.org. Your participation is encouraged. More visual and literary events are in the works and will be shared soon.

The Board is investigating options for a WivLA member retreat to take place in either late summer or early fall. As more information becomes available it will be passed on.

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Deadline for August 2010 Newsletter: July 28, 2010; submit to newsletter@wivla.org



Please join us at our next meeting, July 20, 2010, which will be held at the Museum of Printing History. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your contributions and support.

WiVLA's June membership meeting at the Museum of Printing History.

From left to right: Charles Criner, Cookie Wells, and Janice Smith.

WiVLA "Oasis" Annual Print and Photography Show 2010 ~ DEADLINE JULY 17, 2010

PICTURE PREPARATION – GUIDELINES

Below are some suggested guidelines for using archival materials and preparing your work for hanging.

Adhesives for Collage or similar

- Acid Free Double Sided Tape
- Acid Free Archival Quality Glue
- Acid Free Archival Quality Masking Tape
- Acid Free Spray Adhesive
- Acid Free Acrylic Sealer – Gloss / Matt

'Photo Safe' is a term that is usually synonymous with 'Acid Free'

'Archival Safe' is a term that usually indicates that the product is 'Acid Free' and 'Lignin Free'.

If a product does not state that it is either of these, then it is better to avoid using it if your artwork is intended for exhibition and / or sale.

Positioning of hooks on Frames / Canvases

- It is useful if hooks on canvases are placed **INSIDE** the frame so the hooks do not stand out from the canvas back. This allows the picture to hang closer to the wall and also avoids the hooks damaging the wall surface.
- As a rule of thumb, hooks should be placed 4 inches from the top of the picture frame or canvas.
 - If the picture is smaller than 12 inches long, then a distance of 2 or 3 inches may be preferred.
 - If the picture is longer than 20 inches, then a distance of 6 to 8 inches may be preferred.

N.B. These are guidelines if you have **not yet** framed or prepared your picture. If your picture is already prepared with hooks and wire, it is not necessary to change it.

Screw Eyes are suitable for use on the inside of a canvas while D Rings are suitable for frames. The size of screw eye or D Ring will be determined by the weight of your picture.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Picture Wire

- Picture wire comes in a variety of strengths. The strength of wire you choose should reflect the weight of your finished artwork.
 - For example: #2 Picture Wire will hold framed pictures up to a maximum of 20 lbs.

Plexiglas versus Glass

In framing your picture Plexiglas should be used, in place of glass, wherever possible. This not only makes the artwork lighter for transporting, it also reduces the risk of damage to either the art work or the person hanging the work should it be dropped when hanging / transporting.

A Note about Metal Frames

If you choose to use a good quality Metal frame (such as Nielsen frames) then the work may be hung from the 'channel' on the back – therefore no wire is needed. Beware of cheaper metal frames as these may not have 'channels' and, sadly, have a tendency to fall apart making installation problematic.

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

Cookie Wells and **Shirl Riccetti** are showing their paintings at Waldo's Coffee House in the ten hundred block of Heights Blvd.

Kay Cox won a first and second place in the Galveston Art League's Summer Juried Show.

LITERARY CELEBRATIONS

Sandi Stromberg, a writer/editor at MD Anderson Cancer Center and manager of the institution's external publications, won several awards at the Houston Press Club's Lone Star Awards banquet on **June 25**. Print, broadcast and online journalists from all over the state of Texas enter this competition.

1st place: Public Relations Communicator of the Year
1st place: MD Anderson's Annual

Report: Commitment Creates Momentum; 3rd place: MD Anderson's high-profile Conquest magazine; 3rd place: MD Anderson's patient newsletter Network

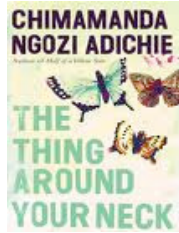
2010 Eco-Fund literary winner, Diana Weeks, has been accepted by the Vermont Studio Center in August... to work on a play about her grandmother... *A STUBBORN WOMAN*.

*Invite A Friend To Come To A Meeting.
Invite A Friend To Join.
www.wivla.org*

*THE CREATING LIFE:
EDITOR'S BEST SUMMER READING PICKS*
By Jennifer Watson

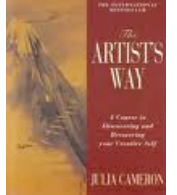
Have you got your summer reading-on yet? You're sure to be inspired by this list of reads compiled from personal favorites, *The Daily Beast* blog post, and *bookmarks* magazine's "Best of the Best Books for 2009." (bookmarksmagazine.com) Enjoy!

- *Love and Summer* by William Trevor
- *The Believers* by Zoe Heller
- *The City & The City* by China Miéville
- *The Thing Around Your Neck* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- *The Financial Lives of the Poets* by Jess Walter
- *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison
- *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier
- *Dancing in the Dark* by Morris Dickstein



Books about Art and Artists

- *The Artists' Way* by Julia Cameron
- *Contemporary African Art Since 1980*, by Okwui Enwezor and Chika Okeke-Agulu (*Damiani*, \$60)
- *Younger Than Jesus Artist Directory*, by Massimiliano Gioni, Laura Hoptman, and Lauren Cornell (*Phaidon*, \$49.95)
- *Painting Below Zero*, by James Rosenquist & David Dalton (*Knopf*, \$50)
- *Angels of Anarchy: Women Artists and Surrealism*, edited by Patricia Allmer (*Prestel*, \$49.95)



MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

Melanie Rosin

E-mail address: mrosin16@gmail.com

Creative medium/media: poetry, creative nonfiction, fiction, screenplays, and plays

She heard about WiVLA through the Scholastic Art and Writing competition (Maxine Leo Award).

She joined WiVLA because the scholarship came with a year-long membership and the opportunity to share my work at the May 2010 meeting. I really enjoyed my time there and am excited to be a part of the organization!

Her work: Although I like all genres of writing, my favorite is poetry. I am currently working on my first book of poetry.

Natalia Vargas

E-mail address: nati_009_3@hotmail.com

Creative medium/media: Mixed media (Color pencils, markers, ink, watercolors)

She heard about WiVLA through the Scholastic Art and Writing competition (Maxine Leo Award).

She joined because: I think it is a great opportunity to connect with strong, independent, artistic women.

Her work: I pay a great deal of attention to detail and texture.

Karen Sherlock

E-mail address: karensherlock@mac.com

Creative medium/media: poetry, writing, textile arts

She heard about WIVLA through Morgan Campos

She joined WiVLA for networking and personal growth opportunities

Her work: I've been mostly using the right side of my brain as a geoscientist for many years and now am actively working to get my left brain better engaged and productive again. I've many stories to tell and want to record my adventures and experience from which others may benefit or be entertained. Also, interaction with art of any kind provides growth and fulfillment beyond the realm of science.

Humor
GOOD PLACES TO WRITE AND DRAW
By Cary Reeder



Cedar Creek Café, Bar & Grill, 1034 West 20th Street, 713-808-9623

This morning my search for good coffee, a comfy place to sit, and serenity (NOW!) takes me to Cedar Creek, part of the “Creek” empire of restaurants that has taken over the Heights area. I’m quite enamored with the guys who run the Creek restaurants (Onion Creek, Dry Creek) because they give items on their menu silly names and seem to live by their own rules. Their restaurants have also brought some much needed variety to the Heights. If you live in my neighborhood, you know that there are more tacos and chalupas per capita here than the entire continental United States. Even though we love the food, whenever another Mexican restaurant opens up, my husband and I let out a collective mournful sigh. Our hope is that the next folks who open a restaurant in the Heights featuring south-of-the-border fare will at least have a sense of humor and call it the *Not Another Mexican Restaurant!?! Mexican restaurant.*

I am trying once again to focus on my book proposal. I am working on a sample chapter that is funny but has not reached the stage of “spit out your coffee and wet your pants” funny. That’s what I’m striving for--I want my readers to be forced to have a change of clothing handy whenever they read my book. A lofty goal, I know.

General Atmosphere: Cedar Creek is located in Shady Acres, a Heights spillover area that is quickly being gentrified. The proprietors transformed what was probably once a seedy bar, abandoned house or machine shop into an inviting oasis amid the seedy bars, machine shops, and now, fancy townhomes. The large outdoor patio is situated around a creek, or really more of a trickle of water, however, *Cedar Trickle Café, Bar & Grill* just doesn’t have quite the same ring to it. There is ample seating inside including a small “living room” area with two couches and a coffee table where I have planted myself this morning. Unfortunately, where I’m sitting seems to be the only place I can escape from TVs blaring the latest World Cup match. I know that the World Cup is a big deal for many people but the only thing that really excites me about it is the vuvuzela, the indigenous instrument whose sound I had previously mistaken for a swarm of bees.

Features: Free WI-FI and outlets to charge your laptop if you can find them, plenty of places to sit inside and out, nice outdoor patios and cool air conditioning inside, friendly staff, and rootsy music in the background.

Coffee and Comestibles: Cedar Creek is a full service café and restaurant. They have all of your favorite coffees, teas, soft drinks, beer and wine, as well as a full breakfast, lunch, and dinner menu. Their iced soy latte rates an A+ from me.

When to Go: It’s pretty obvious that Cedar Creek is more of a lunch and dinner place than the typical cafés I frequent in my search for good places to write. On this Tuesday morning, I am the lone soul tapping away at my computer. The place is empty, save for the staff getting ready for the lunch shift. You would think that this solitude would help me focus but it doesn’t. I need a teaspoon of solitude, a pinch of background noise, and a cup of people working around me for the perfect place to write. If solitude is what you seek, weekday mornings are a great time to visit.

The Verdict: Cedar Creek falls into the category of a “so-so” or “eh” place to write and draw. Yes, you will find good coffee there. You will find somewhere to sit. The WI-FI will be available and the A/C will keep you cool. You may even come up with a good idea or two. But, oh the humanity. Where the

heck is the humanity? Unfortunately, it's not here. If you're looking for a good place to go to breakfast, lunch or dinner, the verdict is yes, but if you're looking for a good place to write and draw among kindred spirits, I'm afraid you'll need to mosey down the creek.

Have you found a Good Place to Write or Draw in your neighborhood? Want to share your great find with other WiVLA-ites? We welcome guest columnists!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONTESTS

The deadline for the "Oasis" Print & Photography Show is July 17th. Please visit www.wivla.org and download the prospectus.

WiVLA 15th Anniversary CDs will be available at the general meetings for \$5.00 each in both PC and Mac versions.

Feel unsafe driving alone to WiVLA meetings? Send the name of any member, including yours, that could use a WiVLA driver to newsletter@wivla.org.

Ann Bell's art classes for July are listed at www.annbell.net/classes.htm
There is a new visual journaling class on Saturday, July 31. Call Ann at 281-330-3827 for class information.

Art Consulting in the Healthcare Industry, Wed. July 28, 6PM – 8PM, Winter Street Studios, 2101 Winter Street B11.
Join Charles White, principal of Skyline Art Services – an art consulting firm specializing in artwork for the healthcare environment – and find out how you can benefit from this new surge in artwork purchasing for health facilities. Skyline Art Services also provides consulting for corporate, senior living, and residential projects; and they have one of the largest

framing operations in Houston.
Pay-what-you-can.

NANO Fiction is now accepting entries for the Second Annual NANO Prize.
Deadline: Aug 31. \$500 and publication will be awarded to a flash fiction piece, prose poem, or micro essay of 300 words or less. For details, visit <http://nanofiction.org>.

2011 Texas Biennial
An independent survey of contemporary Texas art
CALL FOR ART May 15th - July 15th, 2010. Deadline: July 15. \$20 Submission fee per entry; 5 works may be submitted per entry
texasbiennial@gmail.com
www.texasbiennial.com.

General Call for Entries: Aurora Picture Show.
Deadline: Aug 25. Entry fee: \$10
Phone: 713-868-2101
magsamen@aurorapictureshow
http://aurorapictureshow.org/pages/submissions_114.asp.

Participate in the Words & Art Reading (inspired by artist Andrea Dezsö's exhibit, "Sometimes When I Dream I Fly") **Wed. July 28, 7PM at Rice Gallery.** Submit your work to mswemple@gmail.com by Friday, July 23rd. For more information about the reading and gallery hours, visit

<http://ricegallery.org/new/exhibition/sometimes.html>

Texas French Alliance for the Arts (TFAA) Exchange Program

In September 2010, TFAA in association with TCH Cancer Center will send 2 artists to Leon-Bérard Hospital for a period of 3 weeks to work, to create and to distract the cancer children through the use of art. The artists will also work with the sibling and parents.

TFAA expects the artist to offer a proposal that which they will do with the children during the 3 week period. All costs such as transportation and lodging will be covered. A stipend of \$1500 will be offered to each artist.

For more information please contact:
Vanessa Abahashemi, Business Director
info@texanfrenchalliance.org,
713-822-2060

Call for entries: Parallel Universes – the Art of Quantum Physics – The Door To The Future. Deadline, Jul 20. For additional information, please contact :
paralleluniversesart@gmail.com
Paula Hawkins
@ 832-213-8960
Solomon Kane @ 832-244-3814

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WiVLA – CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

July 12: WiVLA Board Meeting, Live Oak Friends Meeting House

July 20: Member Meeting: Artist Sandi Seltzer Bryant

August 5: Annual WiVLA Print Show Opening Reception and Literary Reading, 6pm – 8 pm

August 5-28: Annual WiVLA Print Show, Museum of Printing History.

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

WiVLA Member Meetings 2010:

July 20

August 17

September 21

October 19

November 16

No meeting in December

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear WiVLA Members,

I'm a native Houstonian who will never grow immune to our humid summers, nor for that matter, our tumultuous hurricane seasons, borderline summer/fall climate, and selective rain showers. Thankfully, I have an anecdote for the summer madness in the form of a good memoir, *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls, a *NY Times* best-selling author.

What's on your summer reading list? If the response to this question is a long pause, you only need to refer to The Creative Life column for a list of the best books of 2009. The list is not all-inclusive, but it gives you an idea of what your neighbors have been reading for the last twelve months. For a longer list, visit bookmarksmagazine.com or order the March/April 2010 issue of the magazine.

If you have other suggestions on what to read, or if you simply know of ways to keep your cool in the Houston heat, feel free to share. WiVLA members, who are informed and at times, discriminating readers, are not as fickle as our unpredictable weather.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Watson
newsletter@wivla.org

P.S. We've received several good ideas for the "Name the Newsletter" contest published in the June issue. The deadline is approaching soon! Send your suggestions today!