

# 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.

## NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, November 16, 2010



Discovering new artful opportunities is one of the perks of being a WivLA member. The program on November 16th will be just such an experience. Come learn about a little-known business that not only offers fodder for creative concepts, but recycles that from which we no longer draw inspiration!

**Ramona Brady**, our speaker, is the founder of the Texas Art Asylum, a for-profit social enterprise that offers cool stuff for creative reuse. She is also the founder of the Center for Recycled Art, a fledgling nonprofit that will offer education and opportunities for kids to create using repurposed materials. She has a background in electronic security and services to the commercial real estate industry, and resigned her position as Vice President and General Manager of Kastle Systems, the company that secures most of Houston's skyline, to pursue her entrepreneurial dreams. She has a BA in Justice from The American University in Washington, DC, and an MBA from the University of Texas.

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**

### Index of Articles

Creative Dudette .....	Page 3
Member News .....	Page 4
An Out of Town Opening.....	Page 5
Good Places to Write and Draw.....	Page 6
Announcements & Contests.....	Page 7
Calendar of Events .....	Page 7
Letter from the Editor .....	Page 8

Deadline for December Newsletter: Nov 20th, 2010; submit to [newsletter@wivla.org](mailto:newsletter@wivla.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jeanne Haner

Greetings WiVLA members and friends!

Our member retreat was held Saturday, October 16 at the Northwest Forest Conference Center in Cypress. Thanks to Lane Devereux for organizing this important day of renewal and connection. Rebecca Kveton, Anna Phillips, Kathleen Merritt and Trish Barry Rumble shared their talents as leaders in the four diverse workshops. Participants also had the opportunity to roam around the beautiful grounds on a most splendid day. Members reported that they were inspired by the environment and used some time to reflect, sketch, paint, photograph, and write poetry.

Valerie Koehler, owner and visionary behind the Blue Willow Bookshop for the past 14 years, was our featured speaker for the October meeting. She gave an engaging presentation and shared many insights into the business side of independent bookstores. A lively discussion followed with the audience covering a range of topics of interest to readers and writers.

On Sunday, November 7th, there will be a "new member gathering" at June Russell's home. Cary Reeder, our Membership Chair, will be contacting new members with information about this event.



*Member  
Retreat at  
Northwest  
Conference  
Center –  
October 16,  
2010*



*Photos by  
Jeanne  
Haner*

I am looking forward to the November meeting. Ramona Brady, founder of the Texas Art Asylum, will be presenting the program on "cool stuff for creative reuse."

This time of the year, we give thanks for the people, places and things that are in our lives. May every day of our lives be a day of gratitude. Wishing you and yours a healthy and happy Thanksgiving!

# *Creative Dudette*

By Diana Meade

Dear Reader,

My name is Creative Dudette. I don't know what name you call me, but trust me, I have a name and I am alive and well inside your heart. As Barry Manilow's Creative Dude says. "I write the songs." Well, I also paint the paintings, dream up plots and talk you into taking a weaving class across town at rush hour. I have lots and lots of ideas and there are many facets to me. I am your sparkle and I make you shine.

I have A Person. She's ok most of the time. Creative Dudettes have to have A Person to contain them, because we are actually from Spirit. You'd never know it sometime how precious we are if you see the way Our Person treats us. I am of the creative opinion that people don't get it how much we contribute to the planet. Take a Creative Dudette out of A Person and they are b-o-r-r-i-n-g. They just sit in front of reality TV, eating Cheetoes, clutching the remote.

Sometimes it takes years for A Person to even acknowledge that they have a Creative Dudette operating inside. If their work isn't in a gallery, it's no good. They think just because their book doesn't get talked about on Oprah, they aren't a real writer. Oprah has a Creative Dudette. Hers is pretty easy to recognize. We were in the ether together, so I know her. We were both born in June the same year. My Idiot Person could be on Oprah if she'd just stop screwing around and finish her novel. I help her with it all the time but you won't believe what she does.

She edits it to pieces. I get it written and I be dang, if she doesn't come right behind me and erase all the best parts. I have to plain over-ride her sometimes and that's not easy because along with My Person, I have to fight something I call Blockhead. Blockhead is this character that is the most obnoxious, ornery, pain-in-the-butt critic you have ever been around. Blockhead knows everything about everything. You don't have to ask Blockhead to speak up because he yammers incessantly until I want to take out an ad on Craig's List or sell him on EBay. No such luck.

Blockhead didn't recognize me or give me any credit for even being in here in This Person, in this vessel we are all in, until a few years ago. Some friend of my person dragged her to a WiVLA meeting and boy did I love it. There are women here that treat their Creative Dudettes like the Creative DiVa's they are. Every time I come to a meeting, I get this connection with all the other Creative Dudettes and DiVas and I see in them what they may not see in themselves; their creative spirits!

We recognize each other even if we weren't in the ether together. It's a spiritual reunion for Dudettes and DiVa's. The best part is that Blockhead gets very quiet because these other Creative Dudettes won't listen to that critical claptrap he spews out. My person gets inspired and perky and revved up and I go home happy, ready to be who I am suppose to be.

I hope you come to WiVLA too. Bring Your Person and Your Blockhead. I know you can't leave home with out them. We Creative Dudettes will make them feel welcomed too.

Signed,  
A Creative Dudette

## 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

Archway Gallery artists **Marsha Harris** and Tom Irven present "Flight and Freestyle," new works by both artists **October 1 - November 4, 2010.**

The artists were present at the opening reception **Saturday, October 2, 5-8 p.m.** to greet guests, and gave a demo on **Sunday, October 17 beginning at 2 p.m.**

**Sally Stubbs'** fine art photography is included in the following juried group shows: Houston Center for Photography's "Learning Curve 4" Exhibit; through **November 7<sup>th</sup>** at 1441 W. Alabama; 28<sup>th</sup> Visual Arts Alliance Juried Membership Exhibition through **November 12<sup>th</sup>** at One Allen Center, 500 Dallas; Annual Art Crawl, **November 20 & 21** at Hardy & Nance Street Studios, 902 Hardy Street, Studio A.

**Cary Reeder** had three paintings accepted into the 28th Visual Arts Alliance Juried Membership Exhibition on view at One Allen Center, 500 Dallas, **through November 12th.**

**Donna E Perkins** and **Ann Bell** are among the artists who will be participating in the Open Studios at Art Square Studios on Main, **Saturday November 13, 12-5 pm** at 2711 Main @ Dennis above the Art Supply store.

Lawndale Art Center hosts their 23rd annual Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration. **Bonnie Blue, Kay Sarver, Karen A Smith, Becky Soria** and **Jo Zider** each have a retablo hanging with 250 other artists from **October 18 to**

**November 6, 2010.** 4912 Main Street, Houston, Texas. Hours M-F 10-5 and Sat 12-5.

**Joan Son** and a number of wonderful artists will be part of Betsy's Holiday Show featuring unique gifts and delectables.

**Friday, Nov. 19 - 12 to 8, Saturday, Nov. 20 - 10 to 6, and Sunday, Nov. 21 - 12 to 6.** 1905 Vermont.

**Jeanne Haner** will participate in the Houston Potter's Guild Harvest Sale **November 5-6** from 10 am – 7 pm at 1701 Dunlavy.

### LITERARY CELEBRATIONS

**Leah Lax's** fiction story "Munya's Story" just appeared in the inaugural edition of [jewishfiction.net](http://jewishfiction.net). She also has a personal essay piece on [survivor.org](http://survivor.org).

**Sandi Stromberg** and **Ann Boutte** were selected as Juried Poets in the 2010 Houston Poetry Fest held **October 8, 9 and 10.** Now in its twenty-fifth year, the Houston Poetry Fest is sponsored by the University of Houston - Downtown. Sandi and Ann were invited to read on Friday evening, and each had a poem published in the 2010 Anthology.

**Diana Weeks** has a play in the Fieldworks Showcase at Barnavelders, **Sunday November 7th**, at 7 P.M. Tickets are \$7.00. Her MADCAP Country Theater ten minute show, COME GET THIS BED PAN, will be one of eight short pieces in the showcase.

## An Out of Town Opening

By Lane Devereux

Last November, I had the pleasure of attending a program at the Houston Book Arts Group by Bruce Foster, a noted paper engineer. Paper engineers are the talented people who make pop-up and moveable books do incredibly complicated things as you turn pages. Foster's amazing work inspired eight of us to do a pop-up book of our own to celebrate surviving Hurricane Ike. This spring, the book was entered into a juried moveable book exhibition in Portland, Oregon and got selected for the show.

Since I have family in Portland, including two granddaughters, I jumped at the chance to attend the opening on October 1, 2010. I have attended many openings, some with my work, but mostly for others. Up to now, my work has been exhibited only in WiVLA shows, none of which were juried. When I walked into 23 Sandy Gallery, venue for *Pop UP Now!*, and saw the array of gorgeous, complicated, funny, provocative, multi-media pop-up and moveable books displayed there, I felt momentarily overwhelmed.

How could it be that a professional gallerist who specialized in engineered books had selected our book along with these other astonishing works of art? Wandering through the show, turning pages where allowed, and just admiring where touching was forbidden, I saw inspiring ideas and techniques I could not wait to try out for myself. One book had sound effects; another lit up. Every single book was exquisite in some way.

In the second gallery, I found our book, *Hurricane*, sitting on a shelf among other "Do Not Touch" books. As an author, I did have permission to touch *Hurricane*. Page-by-page, I showed my four-year-old granddaughter Mackenzie how each mechanism worked as I read her the story. The wonder in her eyes, and the oohs and aahs from her mom and dad, made me see our book in a new light. Of course it was accepted into this show – *Hurricane* was an exquisite book in its own right, the visions of eight talented people focused on a single theme. What an honor to be juried into this exhibition and attend this opening, and what a joy to show these pages to Mackenzie!

I have been reluctant to submit work to non-WiVLA venues, particularly for juried shows. I presume that all the other submissions will be better than mine, so why waste the time and money entering? My experience with *Pop Up Now!* in Portland showed me the fallacy of that thinking. Without making the effort to enter, I can never get the validation of being selected. I know that I will not get accepted into every show I enter, but, using guidelines like those offered by Sally Sprout at our September meeting, I do have a chance.

It is not too early to think about New Year's resolutions for 2011. I resolve to enter my art into at least two juried shows next year and my writing into at least two contests. How about you?



## Humor

### GOOD PLACES TO WRITE AND DRAW

By Cary Reeder



#### Onion Creek Coffee House Bar and Lounge

3106 White Oak Blvd., Phone: 713-880- 0706

I am happy to report that many good things happened during my “column break.” I got my sample chapters finished for my book proposal, I went on two fun trips, I got into a couple of art shows, and one day, my tooth fell out while I was walking out the door. The last one isn’t necessarily good but wouldn’t it make a great lyric for a country song? If I can come up with a decent melody and a few more words, I may have a new career.

Today I am visiting one of my favorite Heights haunts, Onion Creek Coffee House. Onion Creek is part of the “Creek” empire that I reported on in a previous column. There was much hubbub and possibly a brouhaha, when Onion Creek first opened because of the threat of noise and other craziness to the backyard neighbors. Alas, Onion Creek made nice, promised to keep rowdiness to a minimum, and I hope quelled any fears. It appears that there is now happiness in the valley that is White Oak Drive, which is good because I do love the Onion.

**General Atmosphere:** Onion Creek is big, roomy and welcoming. There are a variety of areas for your sitting pleasure. If the weather is pleasant, they have a great outdoor patio shaded by trees and umbrellas that is a little oasis. Indoors there is a sun-filled living room with couches and a fireplace, as well as plenty of chairs and tables to sit at. On this day, the place is just about empty and they have one of those giant noisy fans blowing for some reason. The atmosphere is generally more “atmospheric” than today and full of mom’s with babies, computer guys programming something or other, boys from bands talking about gigs, and independent workers “officing” away from the temptations of laundry and naps. The walls are adorned with lots of quirky artwork and they try to create an Austin vibe with signs for Lake Travis, the Pedernales and the such.

**Features:** Friendly staff, free WIFI, and an ancient Ms. Pac Man video game to play if you need a

break from your writing, drawing and/or creating. The music is an eclectic variety of Old School 70s soul and rock but the soundtrack seems to depend on who is working that day. It’s never jazzy and relaxing background music though, so if you are easily distracted and frequently feel the urge to break into song (as I do) bring some earphones. There is parking behind the building and on the street. Be careful not to park at the liquor store next door or you will be towed! On Saturdays, Onion Creek is home to one of the many great Farmer’s Markets around Houston.

**Coffee and Comestibles:** Onion Creek serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. I am always pleased with their coffee drinks and have enjoyed their lunches as well. They have sandwiches, salads, hot dogs, and pizza. I am told that their burgers are really good too but I’m trying to lose at least twelve pounds by the end of the year so I have temporarily sworn off burgers (sigh). I did notice that they have a “Hippie Hollow Burger” on the menu. According to my sisters, who both lived in Austin for a brief time, Hippie Hollow was *the* place for skinny dipping in Austin during the late 60s/early 70s. However, if you eat too many of these burgers you will probably end up “chunky dunking” instead.

**When to Go:** Weekday mornings, afternoons, and non-meal times on the weekend are the best times to go. Onion Creek is a neighborhood hangout on the weekends so most people go there to have fun rather than work. If you are a drawer and are looking to get some practice at drawing the figure, weekends are a great time to surreptitiously capture people in action. The O.C. features a nightly happy hour which I have never been to but am pretty sure does not provide enough solitude for writing or contemplation.

**The Verdict:** Onion Creek is like a comfortable pair of shoes, not flashy or sexy but homey and nice. I know, that is a terrible analogy, but I feel at home every time I go to Onion Creek and comfortable shoes are really important to me. I highly recommend this “O.C.” as a great place to write, draw, curl up with a good book, visit with friends, and dream about Austin.

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONTESTS

Waltrip High School students NEED your old art supplies! Send your old paint, canvasses, boards, papers etc. to **Dune Tencer**. No magazines, please.

Ltencer@houstonisd.org

### **New Member Get-Together**

A get-together for new WiVLA members will be held on **November 7th**. Cary Reeder will email details to new members soon.

**November 11** is a WIVLA reading at Archway Gallery. All interested readers, please contact Elizabeth Earle (eaearle@hotmail.com) or Corry Austin (corry@sbcglobal.net) to be a reader at this event. Your piece should be 3-5 minutes in length, poetry or prose.

Readings will begin at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome!

WiVLA is proud to participate in the **City of Houston's Citizenship Week 2010 November 15 -21**. Hosted by Mayor Annise Parker and the City of Houston, Citizenship Week 2010 is a series of exciting community-driven events and programs designed to raise awareness of citizenship and the citizenry of Houston by celebrating the many faces of our City.

These events and programs will encourage and enhance citizenship and civic engagement by building bridges of understanding, cooperation and awareness of Houston's unique multicultural nature through the theme of what it means to be a Houstonian and citizen of the City of Houston. WiVLA is participating with our monthly member meeting on **November 16**, which will feature an

exploration of Texas Art Asylum and the Center for Recycled Art, two projects dedicated to putting cool stuff into creative reuse, especially for kids' creative projects. Please plan to bring your friends, family, loved ones and guests as we celebrate WiVLA's contribution to the cultural diversity of our City!

**Saturday, February 26, 2011**, is WIVLA's Literary Day, with two workshops being held. Our own **Sandi Stromberg** will give a 1/2 day poetry workshop and **Sarah Cortez** will lead a 1/2 day memoir workshop. Consider one or both! This day promises to be an exciting stretch for everyone, visual artists as well as literary artists. Stay tuned for more information about registration.

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## WiVLA BOARD MEMBERS

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## WiVLA – CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 7:** New Member Get Together

**November 9:** WiVLA Board Meeting, Live Oak Friends Meeting House

**November 16:** WiVLA Membership Meeting: Ramona Brady

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

**There is NO membership meeting in December, but there will be a newsletter. Please submit your news to [newsletter@wivla.com](mailto:newsletter@wivla.com). Our first meeting of the New Year will be January 18, 2011.**

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear WiVLA Members,

Just when I think I'm stuck creatively with nowhere to turn, my WiVLA sisters remind me that I need to play more. For instance in September, I attended Ann Bell's Creative Collage class and discovered I'm too structured. I prefer coloring within the lines instead of allowing my paint to run free.

After her class, I told myself I would replace the noise of my inner critic with the voice of my inner child, and it has been working so far, although it hasn't been easy.

I recently signed up for Diana Meade's weekly newsletter where she shares wonderful ways to "Energize Your Creativity." I'm on week 3 and there's no turning back.

I spent the week of the WiVLA member retreat stressing over a research paper that had been looming above my head when Rebecca Kveton taught me a word every artist should learn. *Moomba* is an aboriginal term meaning "Let's get together and have fun." It was as if I had taken an antioxidant for my writer's block. After talking with Rebecca, I was able to write my paper with less frustration, and I celebrated afterwards by creating a fun new Indian recipe.

WiVLA members are some of the most supportive and resourceful people I know. Because all of us have experienced blocks to our creativity, we've created strategies along the way to prevent us from getting discouraged. I'm thankful for the many ways I've been motivated to look at life differently through art, and I know this new perspective would not have been reached had I not become a member.

Have a creative idea for the newsletter? Submit to [newsletter@wivla.org](mailto:newsletter@wivla.org).

Sincerely, Jennifer Watson

### **Women in the Visual and Literary Arts**

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*Photo by Jeanne Haner*