

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.

OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, October 19, 2010

Please join us for the October meeting and listen to McKenna Jordan, owner of Murder by the Book, one of Houston's fascinating independent bookstores. She will share some history about the bookstore, some of the noted authors it carries, and other points of interest to both literary and visual creatives. 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!

Our newsletter is now officially named – *WivLA VOICES*. Thanks go out to everyone who submitted names for consideration, there were some really good ones. Congratulations and thank you Lane and Michael Devereux for your winning contribution of *WivLA VOICES*.

Sally Sprout generously shared her knowledge and insights with our members at our September meeting. Great program – great turnout – thank you, Sally.



Sally
Sprout

The WivLA member retreat is Saturday, October 16th at the Northwest Forest Conference Center in Cypress. There are still spaces available. I hope you plan to join us for this day of creative renewal.

Mark your calendars - October 19th is our next general meeting. It will be held at the Museum of Printing History, 1324 W. Clay.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

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NEW Deadline for November 2010

Newsletter: Oct 20th, 2010; submit to

newsletter@wivla.org

RETREAT TO THE ALAMO!

October 16 is coming soon and all WiVLA members are invited to attend a WiVLA Member Retreat in the Alamo building at Northwest Forest Conference Center. In addition to lovely grounds that are open for our use, the Retreat will feature four workshops provided by talented WiVLA members.

Member **Rebecca Kveton** will show you how to “**Let Loose & Feel Your Creativity.**” This interactive workshop is designed to help participants expand their understanding of creativity; raise their awareness of creativity; explore new ways to become more creative; and discover their playful, laughing, fun selves again. With Rebecca’s strong professional credentials, this workshop is sure to meet the learning objectives she identified for it. Those are to define your creativity per your perspective; know your own unique triggers for creativity; add more clarity to how you want to be more creative; design a personal action plan for creativity; and learn a new word for creating a playful, laughing, fun loving spirit.

Reiki Master **Patricia Barry Rumble** will teach you how to heal yourself using a therapeutic Japanese process called Reiki. Trish wants you to “**Take Time for You!**” According to Trish, artists spend so much time creating, sometimes staying in one static position for hours. Taking a 10 to 15 minute mini break once a day can help bring your body back in balance, while rejuvenating your mind and spirit, too. In this workshop, you will learn easy Reiki techniques, focusing on breathing and relaxing to soothing music. In a short time, you can feel more relaxed and ready to create again.

Visual artist **Anna Phillips**, a talented hand bookbinder, will teach you how to “**Make a Postcard Notebook**” that you can take home with you that day. Those vacation postcards from a great trip or leftover exhibit postcards can have a new life as a handy note pad. Anna will provide all the supplies needed to create your Postcard Notebook.



Writer, poet, and playwright **Kathleen Merritt** will guide you through “**Awakening The Story Within,**” a session of guided writing practice. Kathleen has eight good reasons why you should join her for this class. 1) Ten minutes to a good story. 2) Exercise your brain to think. 3) Learn to start and stop on a dime with a finished story. 4) Free yourself from imaginative constraints. 5) Think outside your comfort zone. 6) Feel creatively refreshed. 7) Find your storyteller. And 8) Learn some fun writing games.

You will need to bring a small found object to the workshop, as well as paper and a writing instrument.

Rebecca’s, Patricia’s, and Kathleen’s workshops will run 1 ½ hours and can accommodate 20 participants each. Anna’s workshop is limited to 10 people, but she will run two 45 minutes sessions back to back for a total of 20 participants.

After registration closes, I will email everyone attending and ask them to pick their first and second choice workshops for morning and for afternoon. Workshop assignments will be made first come, first served based on the order of registration for the retreat. I will let everyone know their workshop assignments in advance of the retreat.

The sign up deadline was October 1st, but I will accept additional signups through October 9th. Please note that late signups cannot be guaranteed their choice of luncheon sandwich.

This is going to be our best retreat ever. Sign up now! (Use form on the next page.)

Lane Devereux

Sign me up for the WiVLA-member Retreat at the Northwest Conference Center on October 16, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. My \$25.00 retreat fee is enclosed.

Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Circle the sandwich you would like in your box lunch. (If you do not indicate a preference, your sandwich selection will be first come, first served from a variety provided by the conference center kitchen.)

Roast Beef and Cheddar. Ham and Provolone. Turkey Breast and Smoked Gouda
Dilled Egg Salad. Tuna Salad. Grilled Vegetable Sandwich.

Mail your registration form and \$25.00 to

Lane Devereux, 16323 Cypress Trace Drive, Cypress, TX 77429-6388 by October 1, 2010.
Make checks out to WiVLA.

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

Lane Devereux is one of seven artists in the Houston Book Arts Group who created the pop-up book *Hurricane* in a limited edition of twelve. The book has been selected for exhibition in *Pop-Up Now!* a juried exhibition of movable books being held in conjunction with the Movable Book Society's biennial conference in Portland, OR this October. Lane is delighted to be attending the opening reception on **October 1, 2010**.

Olva Pharo has been chosen as one of the artists to paint fiberglass horses for Northwest Assistance Ministries' (NAM) **Jeans and Jewels Gala held October 16** at the Woodlands Waterway Marriott. The auction benefits NAM's Children's Center and sponsorships are still available. Visit olvastewartpharo.com/ontheroad.html for details.

Bonnie Blue will be the featured artist at *Good Gulf*, The Art Car Museum's Sixth Annual Open Call Exhibition on Saturday, **October 23** from 7 to 10 pm.

Cary Reeder's paintings *On the Grid* and *Balance of Power* have been selected for the 28th Visual Arts Alliance Juried Membership Exhibition, **Oct. 15-Nov. 12, 2010** at One Allen Center, 500 Dallas.

LITERARY CELEBRATIONS

Lane Devereux's meditation *Walk With Me* was published in *Becoming: Creative Expression* by Kay Kemp.

J-Coby Wayne is a featured artist on the new Raw, Art of Pure Food Restaurant website. Some of her poetry appears under the Artists link at www.artofpurefood.com. She will be participating in poetry readings as soon as this brand-new living foods restaurant officially launches.

Stella Alexander will be on the "Review With Joy and Company" in Dallas/Fort Worth on **Saturday, October 23, 2010**. Tune in at 9:30 am www.blogtalkradio.com/reviewwithjoy She will have a booksigning at Jokae's Book Store in Dallas on the same day and will speak at the end of the year gala hosted by Joy Lewis with the Review With Joy & Company.

Summer Reunions

By Anna Phillips

I spent a magical eight weeks in the UK this summer and in the process effectively avoided the oppressive humidity and heat of Houston's July and August. My itinerary was well planned – balanced but full. I also had visions of painting and drawing, bringing back some 'works of art'... I even carried my travel palette and related 'tools of the trade' around with me – EVERYWHERE... I took photographs! This particular form of creativity quietly and generously took a back seat as I reveled in the pleasure of reunions and meeting some (very) young people for the first time.

The cooler climes of Scotland and England were refreshing as I basked in the warm embrace of people I had not seen for two (and in some cases three) years. I travelled from Aberdeen to the Highlands to Edinburgh to London. Then on to Bristol, East Sussex and West Sussex (the south coast of England). At each destination I visited with Family and friends; catching up on news and taking in: Art exhibitions; Theatre (a musical and a comedy); A friend's engagement party; Meeting a friend's new grandson; Another friend's wedding, not forgetting the inevitable outings to restaurants and impromptu gatherings!

After attending Aberdeen Quaker (Religious Society of Friends) Meeting for Worship I wrote a short poem. While it reflects the spirituality of the occasion it also describes my extra special time in the UK.

23 Friends

The warm silence
Embraced the occasional
Murmur of cars and buses
Journeying outside

As Peace centered
The small group
I learned, yet again,
The pleasure of family.
The safe haven of
Silent Worship.

The gentle caress of
Familiar faces.
Revisiting – home from home
Even though I know
I will leave again,
Not knowing
When the next reunion will be.
Still a cog in this wheel.

© Anna V Phillips, July 2010

The deadline to submit news, articles and more
for the November edition of WiVLA VOICES
is Oct. 20.

MY WRITING LIFE (SO FAR)

By Connie Buchanan

Long, long ago, in a State fairly far away, I wrote my first short story.

I was 10 years old, and living in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, one of the three “atomic towns” of the Manhattan Project. The other two – White Sands, New Mexico and Richland/Hanford, Washington, were already established small towns when the government took them over. Oak Ridge, however, was built from scratch in the heavily wooded hills of Tennessee. Before then, the only things there were several small farms and untold numbers of moonshine stills.

We were one of the first 12 families to move into Oak Ridge. My first memory of Oak Ridge that hot summer day was people coming to welcome us with bowls of ice cubes. It seems all the pipes used for the water and sewer system were second-hand, and you had to boil your water for about three days before it was safe to drink. There was never enough to make ice cubes!

I had (and still have) a world class imagination, and was really into daydreaming. I would make up stories to tell my younger siblings when we were pretending to be camping out on the back porch. One I especially liked, and started writing it down – something to do with a hill that looked like a dragon and a young boy solving a mystery.

I did babysitting for our next-door neighbor; they felt safe enough even though I was so young, because my mother was right there if I needed any help. One night I finished the homework I had taken to do, and pulled out the story to work on it. When I went home I left the story behind by accident, and the neighbor found it. She came over

and asked my mother if she could take me to her writing group, for she was very impressed with the story.

I thought about it, and decided not to go. I was exceedingly shy then, and didn’t want to be in a group of grown ups, all of them looking at me and asking me questions. Now I wonder how my life might have changed if I had gone. Oh, well....

I had always planned to be a writer. Some kids wanted to be doctors, nurses, teachers, movie stars, but I wanted to be a writer. However, after the dragon hill mystery I don’t remember writing anything down. I had lots of story ideas in my head, however, and I would daydream the story all the way through.

As time went on, life interfered with my plans. School, marriage, work, and children seemed to take up all my time. Any spare time was spent doing chores around the house, etc.

My husband died unexpectedly, and I was really thrown for a loop. Everything was upside down, and I couldn’t sleep. I went to my doctor for some pills to help with the sleep, and he told me I needed to do something productive to take my mind off the death for a while.

“Something you have always wanted to do, but never got around to,” he said. “What would it be?”

“I always wanted to write a book,” I said.

“Then do it,” he replied.

So I went home and did it. My mother raised me to be obedient. I wrote my first novel, a story I had been building in my head for years, and finished it in a month. I would write it by hand, and then stay after

work to type it – it was terrific grief therapy.

I started writing in earnest then. I would get supper on the table, get the kids settled, go to my room, and write. I would probably start around 10:00PM, and plan to write for an hour or two. When I next checked the time, it would be 2:00AM, and I had to go to work very soon. When I retired I was able to spend more time at it. After a few years I was able to compose directly on the computer; before then I would get too caught up in proper spacing, grammar, and making it look good on the page as that had been part of my job.

I joined WiVLA when Shirl Riccetti learned I had eight completed science fiction novels and maybe three others in progress. She insisted it would be good for me, and she was right. I have gotten a lot of confidence and enjoyment from being a member. And membership has made me more productive. I took a WiVLA workshop, and went home and wrote five short stories for the Houston Calligraphy Guild’s newsletter, *Handscrit*, about an anonymous calligraphy guild in a slightly southern city. I went on to write several more stories. I’m ready for another workshop to kick start me again.

People always ask if I have been published. No, unless you count the three I had printed to give as gifts. I tried twice, and then put it off. I enjoy the writing – it’s a lot of fun for me – but finding an agent, etc., is work and I’m retired. As Karleen Koen said one time, that’s alright; I can have my fun, and my heirs can reap the profit.

That’s okay with me.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBER

Name: Paula Haenchen

E-mail address: p_haenchen@hotmail.com

Creative medium/media: Fiction (novel & screenplay)

She heard about WiVLA through word of mouth at a writing workshop in Alvin.

She joined WiVLA for intellectual stimulation, to grow my circle of creative friends, and to find a screenwriting mentor.

Her work: My novel is a romantic thriller. I am currently writing a screenplay based on the novel. Looking forward to starting a new project. I live 50 miles south of Houston in Angleton. I lost my job during the recent economic downturn and am seeking gainful re-employment.

Welcome Paula!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONTESTS

Literary Reading at Archway Art Gallery

Thursday, November 11, 6:30

PM, there will be an evening of literary sharing at Archway Gallery. Please consider sharing your written work in an atmosphere of beautiful visual art. Readings should be 3-5 minutes long, the subject matter is your personal choice. To sign up to read, please email Elizabeth Earle (eaearle@hotmail.com) or Corry Austin (corry@sbcglobal.net). There is room for a limited number of readers this event, so please contact us early. All WIVLA artists are invited to join us for the evening! Refreshments will be served.

Ann Bell's schedule of one-day Mixed Media & Acrylic Workshops for October is at <http://www.annbell.net/classes.htm> or call Ann at 281-330-3827

On **October 9**, **Mylène Dressler** will join forces with the dynamic Helen Terry of Nia Moves for their first-ever collaboration in Houston, "Writing With Your Body, Dancing With Your Words." This relaxed, playful workshop will combine words and movement to unlock the marvelous, natural potential of our bodies and our voices. You need have NO prior "movement" or "writing" experience to attend this unique, fun workshop! For more information,

and to register (**\$40 fee, \$50 at the door**), visit niamoves.com/schedule.html

Betz Art Gallery in Houston announces ARTIST CALL FOR ENTRIES for "The Twelve by Twelve Show"

Deadline: October 10th

Exhibition runs 11/6 – 11/25

Open to all artists, age 18 years or older. The show's prospectus and entry form may be downloaded from the Betz Art Gallery website at www.betzgallery.com <<http://www.betzgallery.com/>>

In **October**, WIVLA members will have the opportunity to participate in the KUHf (Public radio) pledge drive by answering phones and taking pledges at the station. The dates have not been announced, but when they are, a notice will be sent so you can sign up to participate. Contact **Corry Austin** (corry@sbcglobal.net) with questions.

Bayou City Art Festival Memorial Park, Houston Texas Call for Entries

March 25 – 27, 2011

Deadline: October 29, 2010

Entry Fee: \$30

www.zapplication.org

www.bayoucityartfestival.com

Wordsmyth Theater's New Play Reading Series: *The Garden of Monsters*, by Mara Lathrop

October 11, 7 PM, Main Street Theater -- Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose Boulevard

A journey through time and space...through Dachau, London, New York and an Italian garden...a Holocaust survivor gives the last shred of hope to an American GI...years later, the GI's great-granddaughter has forgotten how to hope and the end of the world seems imminent! Meanwhile, a two-headed clown is trying to save mankind...

"**We Roll Big**" is the theme for the first biannual Texas Women's Writers Conference (TexAROH) held at Casa de Luz on Saturday, **Nov. 6th – 9th**, benefitting "A Room of Her Own", which supports women writers and is currently in its 10th year. Authors Meredith Hall, Barb Johnson, Amelia Gray, Liz Belile, Wendy Wheeler, Debra Winegarten, and Lila Guzman will lead conference sessions pertaining to memoir, fiction, poetry, Children's/YA lit, screenwriting, and book marketing. **Cost is \$85 before October 6th and \$95 thereafter.**

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WiVLA – CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

October 11:
WiVLA Board Meeting, Live Oak
Friends Meeting House

October 16:
WiVLA Retreat: Northwest Conference
Center

October 19:
WiVLA Membership Meeting:
McKenna Jordan

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

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear WiVLA members,

Thanks to all who submitted names for the newsletter. WiVLA VOICES is the perfect reflection of our diverse group, and I hope the newsletter will serve as a catalyst for each member to use her individual voice about her journey through the arts. Please note effectively immediately, the newsletter deadline for submission has changed to the 20th of each month to ensure you receive membership news by the first of the month.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Watson
newsletter@wivla.org



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