

HUNTSVILLE ART LEAGUE NEWS

WHERE ART STARTS IN HUNTSVILLE

August 2011

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Huntsville Art League: A Legacy of "Friends, Fun, and Positive Thinking"

By Peter Grant

There is so much going on! This is great for Huntsville Art League and our community! With so many things going everyone's involvement is needed! "Volunteering" is a great way to make new friends, and that is part of what Huntsville Art League is all about. So please jump in! The water is great!

As you know, we are extending invitations to artists who have been previous members to come back. Their membership helps to support our 53 year plus goal — that of giving a safe haven in which to begin a foray into ART. Whether you are a beginning artist or an "art appreciator," Huntsville Art League is "Where ART Starts!" There may also be opportunities to exhibit for those Alumni Artists in the future if they so desire. So, when you see Huntsville Art League alumni, please ask them to "come back and visit." And to consider continuing the legacy of Huntsville Art League through their membership. Of course, their smiling faces and professional experience are always appreciated.

The "Living Social" experiment is going very well. We have gotten a lot of support from our community! The people who have used their tickets for classes have come back and purchased more classes.

Girls, Inc. has had several classes with us through the years, and this has been a great opportunity to spread our name as we give back to the community. This year, our classes have focused on raising self-esteem and being proud of who you are and what you do.

Huntsville Housing Authority has asked us to help them with their 70th Anniversary by presenting art classes to their young residents. The plan is to make posters for a competition about what the housing authority means to them. Again here is another way to reach out to our community. This is just another way to make friends.

We need volunteers to help keep our calendar updated, assist our Gallery Committee, and help our Education Department, along with many other opportunities to get involved, make new friends, and have fun-while helping our community! There is much to do and so many friends to meet. So please volunteer.

August Limelight Collector's Draw Artists



The fine artists who contributed to the Collector's Draw last February are continuing to exhibit their artwork during August.

Join them at the **First Friday Reception** on August 5, 5-8 PM

Please be our guests for fine art, and fine food!

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Library

Chair — Doris Sisk

Teresia Reid • Julia Hawk

Collector's Draw

Chair — Walt Schumacher

Teresia Reid • Julia Hawk • Heike Covell

Grants

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Inspired by Genn*by Walt Schumacher*

I wanted to put off writing this column (working on 105 emails), and then I read **Robert Genn's** email about procrastination... all the little things that get in the way of doing what we need to do. He said:

"Internal drive is the forge of productivity. In all self-starting activities where end results are dependent on you and you alone, procrastination is the default mode. You can pretty well always find a reason not to work. But there's practically always a solution if you want something badly enough."

Have you been spending much time working on your art lately? I sure haven't. Could we designate a certain time that we work on our art, with no "excuses"? I don't know. But time does march on, and as Genn reminded, "To a butterfly, a week is a lifetime." Imagine it.

Let me remind all our painters, that you are welcome to use your time at the desk to paint. Just position yourself in the back, facing the door, and take the phone with you. Customers LOVE to see an artist at work. And if you can, volunteer to set up your easel at Gallery Tour or one of our First Friday events. Popularity and interest in your work are sure to soar!

Reminders: Always a reception the first Friday of the month, 5-8 PM, at the Huntsville Art League Gallery. Always a reception the third Thursday of the month, at Gallery on the Square, 5-8 PM. Two receptions a month that we should all be attending! Unique Views will be coming August 16 to the Gallery on the Square also. You will be receiving an invitation.

More opportunities:

Figure Drawing Group (non-nude): Every Monday Morning, 9 AM-noon, HAL Gallery (this is well attended, and practically free!)

Plein Air Group: Call Janie Byers at 539-3175 for current information.

Peer Critique: Every first Wednesday, 7 PM, HAL Gallery. (Also an invaluable resource.)

There are lots of things happening at Huntsville Art League!!

FROM THE EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Updates: "Living Social" has been a wonderful experience for us! Students have come back for additional classes after taking the "special offer," so everyone is happy. Be looking for our full page ad in the Huntsville Times on 25 August! Our Education Department is featured there, and everyone should find one class (or more!) just for YOU!

By S. Renee Prasil

And, yes, I know it is August — "Back to School," etc., but we are thinking about the upcoming months already! We still have classes on the Summer Schedule through August that have not yet begun, so register soon. Our Fall Schedule of Classes — September, October, and November — will be online soon.

I finished a series of classes with **Girls, Inc.** again this summer! What a great group to work with! I have taught these same young women over the past few years and really enjoy seeing them grow.

We're getting ready to do a program with the **Huntsville Housing Authority** as they celebrate their 70th anniversary. Did you know that this group was THE urban development organization for our area in the 50's and 60's? They were behind the revitalization of Big Spring Park. Keep watching for other little known facts about this important community partner throughout the year. (Bet you thought the only knowledge we shared was about Art. Surprise!)

News: Teachers! A "gentle reminder" — October (Limelight and the Visiting Artist Exhibits) is just around the corner. Start reminding your students (children's classes) of the upcoming exhibit and sale. And this year, we will host the Teachers Art Exhibit concurrently with the Children's Exhibit!

Classes: What classes do we have? Check online at www.HuntsvilleArtLeague.org or at the Gallery. Classes change every quarter! It depends on what YOU request (and what our teachers want to offer), so be sure and send your class requests. Or tell the Desk Worker at the Gallery! (Psst! The list is in the back of the Education Book.)

We have started some classes for Preschoolers and we are having a blast! Bring your little one to the Gallery for classes! After all, we are "Where ART Starts!" for ALL ages.

Workshops at the Gallery

Our workshop with **Pam Clarkson** was a huge success! Registration filled early, so we started a "waiting list." The next workshop is scheduled for October with William Morris. Be looking for information on this workshop soon! Please don't wait to sign up: we want to see YOU at the Gallery!

Awards

Congratulations to **Mary Ann Pope**, Lifetime Member of Huntsville Art League.

Her painting "Swamp Flood" (shown below), was awarded the Signature Members' Award of the Alabama Watercolor Society during their 70th National Exhibition. Juror Elizabeth Chapman remarked: "Lively patterns and life-giving color! Clean and controlled, a true beauty."



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Call Peter Grant at 256-509-0449 for more information.

EXHIBITIONS

Huntsville Times

Patricia Eldridge is exhibiting her paintings at the Huntsville Times Gallery in July.

The Huntsville Times Gallery is located at 2317 S. Memorial Parkway, open Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM. Free Admission. Further information: Times at 256-532-4494 or Huntsville Art League at 256-534-3860.

Library

Judith Fields and **Doris Sisk** continue the exhibition of their artwork at the Huntsville - Madison County Main Library Auditorium during August.

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Fun — we are still considering trips to places like Paducah, KY, Santa Fe, NM, or even Seattle, WA. There are so many galleries we can visit, both near and far. These could be really fun trips! We need people to help plan and coordinate the trips. If this is something you would like to become involved with, contact **Janie Byers**.

As soon as the weather cools, we are going to Hampton Cove Equestrian Center to visit the barn and see the horses. The first part of the trip will be a short class on being safe around horses, and then there will be a wonderful opportunity to paint and photograph these beautiful animals and their surroundings. The dates for this trip will be announced shortly. So get ready for some fun!

Positive Thinking — We are doing great things at Huntsville Art League, so pass the word! It is so busy, but it is all "good" busy. This is the "energy" we are all looking for! More hands will help things "flow" even more smoothly. Let's keep positive and be upbeat! We have much to be proud of. Our artists are producing beautiful works and we are sharing what we love, and what drives each of us to create, with more and more new artists. We are truly "Where ART Starts!" every day.

Please remember "**Peer Critique**" the first Wednesday of every month. This is a super program for artists of all media and all levels to get valuable feedback about your work. And it is offered in a spirit of "camaraderie"! Just one more of the fun and friendly, positive-oriented perks associated with your Huntsville Art League!

So get involved! **You** are needed to insure that Huntsville Art League will continue being "Where ART Starts!" for the next generation of artists.

Damn, and I was just starting to get it!
~ Edgar Degas.....
on his deathbed~



One of Patricia Eldridge's whimsical, brightly colored cat and dog paintings she is displaying at the Huntsville Times Gallery. Through the sale of these paintings and prints Patti helps to raise money for homeless pets.



Bar L. Echo, a foundation Quarter horse seen here with his rider, Nadia (Peter's Grand Daughter), is ready for the Huntsville Art League to come out to the stables for photos and painting!

Friends of Huntsville Art League

- Don Broome Framing
- Alabama Heritage Homes (Kathy Kunz Wright)
- Nick's Ristorante (Nick and David Mikus)
- Cafe Berlin (Tom and Anya Chapman)
- Bernard and Charlie Bonne
- Dorothy Davidson
- San Francisco Residence Club (Anne O'Shea)

President's Award

For your service and dedication to Huntsville Art League, a special Thank you to

Patricia Eldridge

To be successful in our game you need good work, and someone who thinks it's good besides your mom.
~ Robert Genn ~

Meet the Unique Views Judges

Kathryn Silvestri received a B.F.A. at Auburn University and currently works as the Exhibits and Marketing Coordinator at the Carnegie Visual Arts Center in Decatur, Alabama. She also does freelance graphic design work.

Dianne Burch is co-founder/producer of the Sidewalk Arts Stroll and has managed several fine arts galleries. Dianne has a background in business marketing and management and currently works as a private art marketing consultant.

Robert Bean received a B.F.A. from Mississippi State University and an M.F.A. from Louisiana State University and works as an artist and Associate Professor at Alabama A&M University in the Fine Arts Department. He currently has a studio at the Lowe Mill Arts & Entertainment Center.

Cara Fuller received her Masters of Fine Art degree from Savannah College of Art and Design. She teaches photography at Alabama A&M University and works as a digital imaging specialist at USA Sports Art, Inc. Her photographs, incorporating traditional and digital media, have been nationally exhibited, with a recent award given by distinguished photography historian Robert Hirsh received at the CEPA Gallery in Buffalo, New York. To see her work, please visit www.carafuller.com.

Joe Washington has a B.F.A. from Indiana University and an M.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He has served as the Exhibition Designer for the Huntsville Museum of Art, and is currently a professor in the Art Department at Alabama A&M University.

