



Ellis County Art Association, Inc. Fine Arts Museum

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ECAA Regular Meeting:

**Monday, January 9, 2006 at 6:30 P.M.
Ellis County Art Museum**

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Ouch!..is anybody else experiencing severe neck pain from whip-lash caused by 2005 when it slammed into 2006? Where did all the time go???

Wasn't the Christmas Party great? Nettie's idea for everyone to sponsor a table and compete for the "favorite" was absolutely inspired. The tables were beautiful and so creative; it was hard to pick a winner. Congratulations, Joy Elliott, your table was magnificent! Thanks to Helen Lundberg for co-ordinating the food for our dinner...that took lots of phone calls & emails, and the buffet was beautiful. Priscilla Parker's Karaoke Christmas was such fun as well as the gift exchange. The highlight of the evening was the Volunteer Recognition Program. Thanks so much to Linda Moxley for the many, many hours of work on this very worthwhile project.

2005-06 Directory Now Available!!!

The 2005-06 Membership Directory is now available. Be sure to pick up your copy at the Museum if you haven't already done so. Thanks to Renee Schupp for the preliminary work and to Lindy Nobles for the final product. It took a while, but the final result made it worth the wait.

If you thought 2005 was a busy year, just look at what's coming up next year! Mark your calendar with the following 2006 event schedule:

- EVERY THURSDAY, BEGINNING JANUARY 19 - LIFE DRAWING GROUP (see information in this newsletter)
- Feb. 11th - New Sales Gallery - Grand Opening Reception (Rotating show every 3 months w/reception)
- March 4th - Business Expo
- April 1st - Youth Art Show
- June 3-4 - June Open Show - "Paint Out"
- July 10 thru 28th - Summer Art Academy
- Sept. TBA - Bob Phillips Show
- Sept. 15-16 - Garage Sale
- Nov. 11th - Membership Juried Show
- Dec. 4th - Christmas Party

It's going to be an exciting year!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU...

Thank you to the Nobles for donating a new electric heater and to the Abbotts for a paper shredder! These two items were much needed for our office and were put to use immediately!

I hope everyone got their "Christmas Wish" and have a great New Year celebration! See you at the next meeting, January 9th.
—Tina

"Every artist dips his brush in his own soul, and paints his own nature into his pictures."
—Henry Ward Beecher

JANUARY DEMONSTRATOR



Our demonstrator for the January 9th meeting will be Fort Worth resident, Darnell Jones. For the past ten years Ms. Jones' paintings have been accepted in the annual American Watercolor Society's national competitions. Her 1994 painting "Taos Winter" was included in the Traveling Show and the 1995 entry "Chama Gold" won the Bud and Gretchen Marble Bronze Medal. She received membership in the American Watercolor Society with her entry "Snow Blanket", which won the High Winds Medal. Darnell was awarded the Dolphin Fellowship as a result of winning the Millard Sheets Memorial award for her painting "A Chance Encounter".

Other achievements include membership in National Watercolor Society, participation and awards from Rocky Mountain National competitions, National Watercolor Oklahoma, Southwest Watercolor Society and Society of Watercolor Artists. She also belongs to Allied Artists of America and Oil Painters of America. She regularly paints on location with the Outdoor Painters Society.

Darnell has placed in the national "Artist" magazine competitions, and her art was featured on the cover of the special edition of *Watercolor Magic*. She was again featured in the Summer 1996 edition of *Watercolor Magic*, in an article entitled "Accentuating the Negative", along with other feature articles.

Originally self-taught, she studied graphic art at Richland College in Dallas. Since 1980, she has studied with a number of nationally acclaimed artists, including Al Brouillette, Carole Barnes, Scott Christensen, Kevin Mcpherson, and Bob Kuhn.

Darnell conducts regularly scheduled workshops and also juries shows. Her love of traveling has resulted in trips to France, Spain and Portugal, where she painted also. Her studio is in Fort Worth. Visit her website at: darnelljonesartist.com

She will be working in oil for our meeting. Be sure to attend what promises to be an informative and interesting demonstration.

Save the Date ...



LIFE DRAWING GROUP!! Beginning **THURSDAY, JANUARY 19th,**
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

This will be a weekly, informal, life drawing group. We'll each take a 10-minute turn as the model (fully clothed). An excellent opportunity to improve your figure/people drawing skills. Free to members, visitors \$5 donation.

January Hostesses

Hostesses for the January 9th meeting are: Jane Jacobs, Margaret Gaston and Mitti Bowren.

Outstanding Christmas Party

Hats off to the Chairpersons of our December 5th Christmas Party - Helen Lundberg, Nettie and Roy McHone. Thanks for your great idea and leadership in putting this event together. Special thanks to all those who hosted a table for the party. Your creativity and enthusiasm were outstanding! Congratulations to Joy Elliott with the most popular table. Everyone should be proud of their time and efforts not only in the decorations but the delicious dishes provided. The evening was a great success!

Ellis County Art Association Newsletter Editor: Lindy Elkington Nobles. Articles for publication should be received by the 20th of each month. Information can be sent to: lyndle@aol.com or mailed to the museum at 501 W. Main St., Waxahachie, TX 75165



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The Supply Box

by Jill Parr

My favorite holiday, New Years. It's a time to evaluate how last year went, and determine how to use my energies next year to be more in line with my goals. I'm not talking about resolutions, or what we have come to think of as resolutions. New Years resolutions are like spiritual junk food - no one really expects lasting nutrition from them; temporarily they satisfy our hunger, but inevitably, old habits and the pace of our lives interpose; and resolutions fall by the wayside. The worst thing about unkept resolutions is how they make us feel. We take on a burden of belief that we lack moral fiber and self control. Instead of meeting the new year positively, from a position of personal strength, we meet it with our arms so full of baggage that we compromise our ability to recognize and utilize the great new things that come to us. Resolution comes from the word resolve, which is not a one time effort but an ongoing enterprise.

In my supply box this month I have a number of tools which help me to make great use of opportunities that come my way. I'd love to share them with you:

- 1. Respect mistakes.** Look upon them not as failure but as scientific inquiry into which life choices are the most effective. Mistakes are an opportunity to dance with the unexpected.
- 2. Choose simple solutions.** Simple solutions tend to come from our hearts, while complex solutions, which have a higher probability of failure, tend to come from our heads. Isn't living complicated enough without our thoughts distorting the landscape?
- 3. Laugh often.** It makes good chemicals in our bodies, exercises the deep muscles of our respiratory systems, and is profoundly contagious. If facial lines are inevitable as we age, laughter makes the nicest ones. We have the choice whether to laugh or cry.
- 4. Be endlessly creative.** Why reserve creativity only for art work? The "creativity muscle" works like all the other muscles in our bodies, it grows stronger the more we demand of it. Everything we touch, every thought we think has creative applications. When not being creative with our lives, we are often flying on auto pilot - present but not really participating.
- 5. Prioritize.** Feed your soul and your creativity FIRST; without them we are giving only an appearance of life. Life is when ALL systems are functioning. Our spirits and creativity give everything that passes through our hands vitality. When we allow things to pile up between us and what feeds us, we are setting ourselves up for disappointment. Here's the creativity thing again; by creative problem solving we can find ways of meeting our own needs while still keeping commitments. Of course, no amount of creativity will help if we never learn how to say, "NO!" Prioritizing means being reasonable about what we expect from ourselves.
- 6. Whatever we do, we should enjoy it.** We don't paint to get good art, but because we love the process. Our pleasure becomes part of the work. We must have faith that we will learn from our mistakes. If we paint only what is easy, and what we are sure we can pull off, we do not grow. The greatest pleasure in doing anything is measuring our growth in that process over time. That's where self esteem is born.
- 7. Let's learn to love ourselves as well as we love our friends.** Let's be compassionate with ourselves about mistakes, and be kind to ourselves when we are having difficulties. Let's be generous in our recognition of what we do right and well. Let's learn to take compliments as offerings of love, and say "Thank you." Let's not immediately begin to explain why we aren't really deserving. Let's make our lives a place of nurture and healing, so that when we have given our fullest, our own hearts are places of refuge and retreat.

Bless you all in this New Year. Thank you for the beauty, creativity, commitment, friendship, generosity, inspiration, kindness, laughter, and mentoring you have demonstrated this past year. May your new year be an exquisite work of art.

P.S. I'd like to evolve this column. Since I am running out of art sources to review, I invite you to make suggestions of places (or catalogs) you'd like to see reviewed and/or ask me art related questions. Where to get cheap business cards; how to use a certain product; where to go to learn a new process or media; how to coax a monkey back into its cage! You ask it - I'll give answering it my best shot. Leave all suggestions/questions in the resident artists mailbox at the Art Museum or mail to my home address: Jill Parr, 403 Kaufman St. Waxahachie, TX 75165-3421. You can also email me at jillart2@juno.com

January Birthdays



- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 4 Betty Guynes | 11 Devonna Moegelin |
| 5 Kari Crowe | 15 Jeanne Gustafson |
| 8 Dolly Hall | 31 Micky Hayes |
| 9 Sandy Reese | |

ECAA Wish List

Even though the Holidays are over, the Museum still has needs: Ink Cartridges for printer, CASH, Fire-proof file and/or safe (for important documents and files), Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Garbage Bags, CASH, Area Rug for Library (5' x 8'), 2' step ladder, 6' or 12' Aluminum Ladder (multi-use folding with scaffolding would be great!), and... CASH! Please keep us in mind this year!

NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|---|---|
| Dolly Hall
401 Brown Street
Waxahachie, TX 75165
972-938-1435 | Bea Machovsky
214 Myrtle Ave.
Waxahachie, TX 75165
972-937-7623 |
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ECAA Holds First Volunteer Recognition Program

Over 40 past officers of the Ellis County Art Association were recognized for their voluntary service on the evening of December 5th at the Fine Arts Museum. Activities began with a covered dish

Christmas Party followed by the Volunteer Recognition Program with presentation of service pins to those members who have served the association with their selfless dedication and stewardship over the years. The lovely service pins have the member's name, years of service and likeness of the Fine Arts Museum engraved on them.



ECAA Presidents, past and present. Back: Karen White, Joy Elliott, Barbara McMullen, Ramona Murphy, Phyllis Shingler. Front: Tina Bohlman, Priscilla Parker, Betty King, Mary Proffitt.

The Art Association's Volunteer Program commenced in September of this year. Members and non-members record in a special notebook the amount of time they donate to the association, the date and the activity. At the monthly meeting, the top contributors for the prior month are announced.



Members with the most service time: Margaret Gaston - 10 years, Phyllis Shingler - 9 years, and Mary Proffitt - 10 years. Not pictured: Ann Jones - 9 years.

We hope all the recognized volunteer recipients will treasure their service pins and proudly wear them at all our association functions.

Members, please remember to record the time you contribute. This information is of critical importance when preparing proposals for funding purposes.