



# THE QUARTERLY summer 2011

THE JAMES RENWICK ALLIANCE



Ubaldo Vitali  
*Tureen*



**JAMES RENWICK ALLIANCE QUARTERLY**

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**ABOVE,** Clemmer and JRA artist member Sherry Selevan create a glass painting at Judith Schaechter's workshop on May 21.

# From the president...

This has been a remarkably successful year. We earned more money from Spring Craft Weekend than ever before—over \$200,000. The event was well attended, and everyone was in an upbeat mood the entire weekend. My appreciation goes to all those who spend weeks and hours on each project to make the weekend so successful. Now all can have their lives back—until we start planning for the 2012 events with Gary Stevens at the helm.

The Distinguished Artist Series was the most successful ever with Saturday sessions filled to capacity. And each lecture found the Grand Salon full, over 100 each time. Again thanks to the four people who organized each event and who already have confirmed guest artists for this fall and next spring. You will not be disappointed with their selections.

The Venice Craft Leaders Caucus trip is sold out to 28 people, and credit goes to Anne Mehringer for her superb job.

Five members rotated off the board this year, and five new people take their places (*see article, p. 3*). I thank these five for their service and encourage the new board members to bring their enthusiasm and new ideas to the table. The Planning and Nominating Committee, headed by Norman Mitchell, has come up with a program to make the presidency more attractive to prospective candidates by creating a dual vice presidency to handle programs and development.

I don't want to dwell too much on this high level of success. The following pages tell the story and the "Save the Dates" list puts us in touch with what's coming up.

With the 100th anniversary of the Japanese government's gift of cherry trees to the U.S., the 40th anniversary of the Renwick Gallery and the 30th anniversary of the James Renwick Alliance in 2012, our job is cut out for us. So stick around for another fabulous year.

*Clemmer Montague*

Clemmer Montague, *JRA President*

**ON THE COVER**

*Tureen* (2001) by Ubaldo Vitali joins the Smithsonian American Art Museum's permanent collection, a gift of the James Renwick Alliance. The tureen and the furniture *Drift* by Matthias Pliessnig are on display at the Renwick in the exhibition "History in the Making: Renwick Craft Invitational 2011" until July 31. Photo courtesy of the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

**JRA BOARD MEETINGS\***

- Tuesday, September 13 @7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 11 @7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 6 @7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 17 @7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 14 @7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 10 @7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 8 @7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, June 9 @7:30 p.m.

\*Subject to change





New board members Marilyn Hardis, Fran Burka and Miriam Rosenthal, and new JRA Administrator Cicie Sattarnilasskorn. Not pictured: new board members Lois Jecklin and Pat Arnold.

### NEW BOARD MEMBERS BEGIN FIRST TOUR

Five members joined the JRA Board of Directors and began their two year tour on July 1 which will end on June 30, 2013. According to the bylaw rules, each may be asked twice to remain for an additional two years and can remain up to six years.

**Lois Jecklin** is interested in working with the membership committee and acquisitions. **Marilyn Hardis** who has worked on JRA Day would like to con-

tinue in this position. **Pat Arnold**, returning for a second time, manages the backroom activities for Spring Craft Weekend and arranges for volunteers to assist.

**Fran Burka**, returning after a few years off the board, will be heading up the programs committee. **Miriam Rosenthal**, who will continue as the volunteer photographer for the James Renwick Alliance and the *Quarterly*, has many ideas on membership

and would like to work on this committee.

Rotating off the board are: Arnold Berlin, Robert Straus, Binnie Fry, Larry Gabriel and Marsha Gold.

"We welcome these new members to the board and express deep gratitude to those who are rotating off. We thank them for their service to the Alliance," Clemmer Montague, president, said.



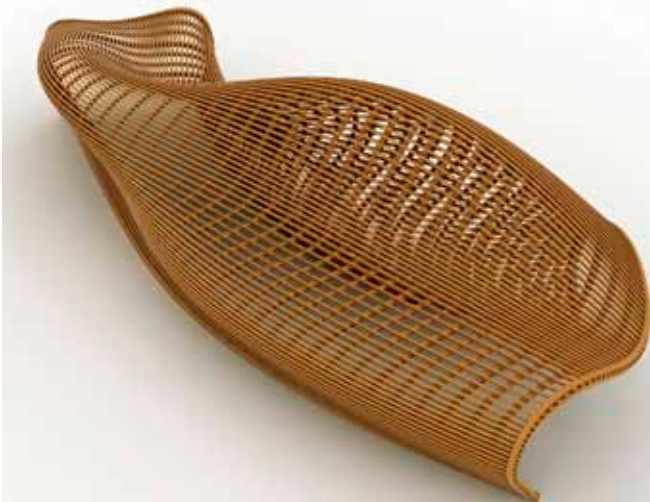
### ABOUT THE RENWICK GALLERY

The Smithsonian American Art Museum celebrates the vision and creativity of Americans with works of art in all media spanning more than three centuries.

The museum's branch for craft and decorative arts, the Renwick Gallery, located on Pennsylvania Avenue at 17<sup>th</sup> Street N.W., Washington, D.C., is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., except Dec. 25. Admission is free.

Metrorail station: Farragut North (Red line) and Farragut West (Blue and Orange lines). Smithsonian Information: 202 633-1000; 202 633-5285 (TTY). Museum information (recorded): 202 633-7970. Web site: [americanart.si.edu](http://americanart.si.edu). Follow the museum on Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, ArtBabble, iTunes and YouTube.

**BELOW**, the Acquisitions Committee voted to acquire *Drift* by Matthias Pliesnig for the Smithsonian American Art Museum's permanent collection, a gift of the James Renwick Alliance and museum purchase through the Richard T. Evans Fund. Photo courtesy of the artist.



### OBITUARIES We shall miss them greatly...

**Bev Denbo**, beloved friend and JRA Supporter, died at her home on May 19 after a battle with cancer. She was an active and stalwart member of the JRA who lent her energy and expertise to a number of activities. Her interest in craft extended to a deep study of ceramics including becoming an accomplished amateur ceramist.



We pay tribute to two special friends and long time caucus members. **Marilyn Barrett** died July 6, and her husband **John W. Barrett**, known to us as Jack, died Friday, April 15. Marilyn organized the award brunch for Spring Craft Weekend for the JRA for several years and has been the soul of the Alliance for a long time. Her special contribution this year was arranging the Masters of the Medium brunch at the Hay-Adams Hotel overlooking the White House and Lafayette Park and filling the room with ceiling-high forsythia branches. We will miss both of them.





# Masters Tagliapietra, Vitali talk about their work at the Italian Embassy



The celebration of two contemporary Italian masters was arranged by Renato Miracco (left) and Renwick Gallery curator Nicholas Bell. Next is Master of the Medium of glass, Lino Tagliapietra, master silversmith Ubaldo Vitali and Betsy Broun, director of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Photos by Miriam Rosenthal

Lino Tagliapietra and Ubaldo Vitali captivated a full house at the Embassy of Italy with their talks about their work: *A Conversation with Contemporary Italian Masters: Glass Master Lino Tagliapietra and Master Silversmith Ubaldo Vitali* on Wednesday, March 23, prior to the opening of Spring Craft Weekend.

The membership related program was standing room only, and was followed by a reception in the spectacular lobby of the embassy building. The event, under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Italy, Giorgio Napolitano, celebrated the 150th anniversary of Italy as a republic—Italy@150.



# Opening Event: Renwick Craft Invitational 2011



*History in the Making: Renwick Craft Invitational 2011* opened March 25 at the Renwick Gallery, the Smithsonian American Art Museum's branch museum for craft and decorative arts, and closes July 31. The exhibition features 70 works by ceramic artist Cliff Lee, furniture maker Matthias Pliessnig, glass artist Judith Schaechter and silversmith Ubaldo Vitali. Each Invitational artist is a master of the medium and creates artworks that combine historical techniques with contemporary forms.

James Renwick Alliance members attended the opening along with the 2011 Masters of the Medium: Jun Kaneko, ceramics; Jon Eric Riis, fiber; Linda MacNeil, metal/jewelry; and Garry Knox Bennett, wood/furniture.



**TOP**, JRA board member Novie Trump and JRA artist member Tamara Laird. **ABOVE LEFT**, Invitational panel: Nicholas Bell, Renwick curator; Andrew Wagner, former editor of *American Craft Magazine* and editor-in-chief of *ReadyMade* magazine; and Ulysses Dietz, senior curator and curator of decorative arts at The Newark Museum. **ABOVE RIGHT**, Mary Anne Goley, Lloyd Herman and Ross Randall. **BELOW**, Invitational Opening guests in the Grand Salon. Photos by Miriam Rosenthal





March 25, 2011 CRAFT LEADERS CAUCUS DAY

# Spring Craft Weekend

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIRIAM ROSENTHAL



Craft Leaders Caucus Day played out the weekend theme superbly: "Artful Pleasures and Landmark Treasures." Organizers Barbara Berlin and Sandy Mitchell arranged visits to two historic houses in Georgetown, lunch at the Mexican Cultural Institute (MIDDLE RIGHT) and a talk by the White House Curator William Allman (BOTTOM RIGHT) on the upcoming exhibition *Something of Splendor: Decorative Arts from the White House*. LEFT, new Caucus member Jeffrey Spahn of San Francisco. RIGHT, Ryna Cohn, host Vicki Sant, Shirley Jacobs, Carolyn Alper, Fran Burka. BELOW LEFT, host Toni Gordon at her home. BOTTOM LEFT, Barbara Berlin, William Allman, Robyn Kennedy and Sandy Mitchell.



March 26, 2011 SYMPOSIUM / GALA AUCTION



**ABOVE**, major players for the Saturday symposium “Everything Old is New Again” were Renwick 2011 Invitational artists, Renwick staff and JRA volunteers. **Front row:** Betsy Broun, Clemmer Montague, Judith Schaechter, Cliff Lee and Robyn Kennedy. **Back row:** Matthias Pliessnig, Nicholas Bell, Ubaldo Vitali and Lloyd Herman. **BOTTOM**, volunteers set up for the Gala Auction.





March 26, 2011 GALA RECEPTION AND AUCTION

# Spring Craft Weekend

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIRIAM ROSENTHAL



**TOP LEFT**, Reba Immergut, SCW chair, says “Thank you” to all who worked on organizing the weekend. The photographs tell the story: **TOP RIGHT**, Linda MacNeil, Master of the Medium of Jewelry with her bunch of “groupies.” **ABOVE LEFT**, Sharon and Robert Buchanan and friends. **ABOVE RIGHT**, displays created by Judy Weisman and her crew for the auctions. **RIGHT**, Master of the Medium of Ceramics Jun Kaneko and his wife Ree, and **FAR RIGHT**, Diane Grainer and Bonnie Schwartz, the party planner who turned the Grand Salon into a magical place and created an unforgettable evening.





March 26, 2011 GALA RECEPTION AND AWARDS



**TOP LEFT**, the gala was truly lovely with Renwick Invitational Master Silver-smith Ubaldo Vitali and Myra (Mickey) and Stephen Kurzbard. **ABOVE**, Garry Knox Bennett and Marilyn Barrett. **RIGHT**, the recognition of Sherley and Bernard Koteen as the One of a Kind award recipients, and **BELOW**, the fantastic “We Love Lloyd (Herman)” 75th birthday party, complete with Lloyd masks, all beautifully arranged and presented by the unbeatable Bonnie Schwartz.





March 27, 2011 AWARDS BRUNCH

# Spring Craft Weekend

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIRIAM ROSENTHAL



**RIGHT**, the Sunday brunch was devoted to the Masters of the Medium at the Hay-Adams Hotel, overlooking Lafayette Park and the White House. Marilyn Barrett and Paul Parkman handled the entire event. **ABOVE**, Colleen Kollar-Kotelly introduced Linda McNeil.



**ABOVE**, The Masters: Lino Tagliapietra, glass; Garry Knox Bennett, wood/furniture; Linda McNeil, metal/jewelry; Jon Eric Riis, fiber/tapestry; and Jun Kaneko, ceramics.



**ABOVE LEFT**, JRA Secretary Julianna Mahley and artist member and AV expert Tony Glander. **ABOVE RIGHT**, Jon Eric Riis presents. **LEFT**, Jan Fisher of Tacoma, WA, Susan and Fred Sanders of New York, and Miriam Ellsworth. **RIGHT**, Judith Schaechter, Tim Tate and Jenna Goldberg.





# Board Members to Watch

THE GALA DUO by Johanna Thompson



Judy Weisman

When you arrive at the annual Gala, dressed in your finest “artful attire,” you have a sense of anticipation for how lovely the venue will look. And you may be anxious to see if the auction items are as irresistible as in past years. You may not wonder how all of this festive atmosphere was created, but since much of this issue of the *Quarterly* focuses on 2011’s Gala, reminding us of how magical the evening was, let us look behind the curtain to find the Wizard responsible. And, it turns out, the Wizard is actually two people: Judy Weisman (*above*) and Bonnie Schwartz (*right*).

For the past 6–7 years these two have worked jointly to create the Gala evening. And they have developed a perfect division of labor: Judy with her experience in guiding collectors to find effective ways to display their collections does the acquisition and staging of the auction items. And Bonnie, who has for years been working in event planning, has a major role in selecting the venue for the Gala, does the planning of the food and drink for the evening, establishes the décor, and arranges for any musical entertainment.

Judy’s part in the process may begin as much as a year ahead of the event if an item is to be made especially for JRA. Assembling the pieces that make up each year’s auction takes great but gentle negotiating skill to convince the artists to contribute just the right pieces to create an array that is exciting and leads serious collectors to bid.

The staging itself involves a lot more than putting objects on pedestals. The pieces arrive at different times, must be stored until the gala

and then delivered to the venue ever so carefully. Then Judy must arrange them in a way that each piece can shine, but which allows for people to pass among them, without roadblocks. In order for the pieces to be shown at their best, strong lighting must be arranged—but in a way that is inconspicuous and doesn’t impede attendees’ movement.

And those beautiful dinner tables! After the venue is selected, Bonnie must decide which area will be devoted to cocktails, which to dinner, how the tables should be arranged to be “cozy” while allowing space for the wait staff to operate.

Then comes the all-important decoration. Although selecting a color scheme is a critical starting point, don’t forget the charming napkin rings. Each year they’re creative and unique. They become table favors, and some are worn for the evening. One person we know even has a collection of them! Then what about flower arrangements: tall and striking, or low and conducive to conversation?

Judy and Bonnie don’t consider themselves to be co-chairs but rather collaborators who work smoothly together because of their deep respect for each other’s skills. Although of course there is pressure as the time of the Gala nears, it is lessened because they both have confidence that the other person’s part of the task will be under control.

Confidence in their vendors also helps diminish worries. Many outsiders must be hired for the Gala to be the elegant, finished



Bonnie Schwartz

Photo by Miriam Rosenthal

event it is: caterers, florists, people who do the lighting and the sound, and who do the unpacking, moving, and repacking of the art objects. Bonnie and Judy select people for these tasks with whom they have worked in the past, ones that they know are dependable. Last minute calls saying something can’t be done or will be late because of an emergency just can’t happen—and don’t. Their vendors reliably perform what they have promised.

Judy and Bonnie are so in tune with each other’s work that they don’t need multiple meetings; they are able to accomplish most of what they require through occasional brief phone calls to put the many-faceted Gala together. They each can anticipate the other’s concerns as they proceed with their planning, which results in a smooth, efficient working relationship. The JRA is indeed fortunate to have the “Bonnie and Judy duo” at the helm!



# April in Philadelphia with the Cohns: Gorgeous Views and Sophisticated Design



**ABOVE**, host Suzanne Cohn shows Gwen Paulson the Dale Chihuly installation.



**ABOVE LEFT**, Laura Hoenmeyer and Jay Barrett of Las Vegas pose with the kimona by JRA Master of the Medium of Fiber 2011, Jon Eric Riis. **ABOVE RIGHT**, guest Kimberly Fried, JRA Caucus members Fran and Leonard Burka and Tina Fried Heller on the balcony which overlooks the Delaware River. **BELOW LEFT**, Sandy Mitchell and Bonnie Schwartz do what JRA members love to do: shop, here at Snyderman-Works Gallery. **BELOW CENTER**, Suzanne Cohn, host, with Mallory Lawson who organized and then sold spaces for the two-day trip to Philadelphia.



**ABOVE**, The Cohns' fame is for the collection of place settings for dinner. Leon Ellsworth admires and then chooses his special place to sit for dinner.

Forty generous JRA members traveled to Philadelphia on April 30 to take part in a fabulous benefit gourmet dinner at Norman and Suzanne Cohn's spectacular new craft filled penthouse apartment, as well as weekend visits to the Snyderman Gallery and the collections of artists Etta Winograd, and Dr. Larry Spitz and his wife Carol Klein.

The Cohn's premier collection of "table top art" and the extraordinary crafts they have commissioned and collected over decades of extensive traveling made for a memorable evening as part of the "Events and Adventures" offered at this year's Spring Craft Weekend. Combined with gourmet food, rare wines, wonderful entertainment, gorgeous views and sophisticated design, the event was one to be cherished forever.



## GALLERIES AND ARTISTS NEWS



Northwest glassblowing artist and JRA 2007 Master of the Medium for Glass Ginny Ruffner oversaw the installation of her five-ton steel flower pot at Seventh Avenue and Union Street in Seattle in July. See [http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2015427804\\_garden-art26m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2015427804_garden-art26m.html).

2011 Master of the Medium for wood/furniture **Garry Knox Bennett** has a new collection of jewelry (very different!) and a new collection of lamps; some are mechanical and parts rotate! They all have a similar format and great illumination. (Several are editions).

Most recent are three new bronze-edition tables; a large coffee table, a low side-table and a medium-height side-table, all with glass tops. The three wood-prototype tables for the editions were also in a show in Boston and are available.

One can find most of the work on Garry's site [www.gkb-furniture.com](http://www.gkb-furniture.com) (which is being updated right now and is almost complete!). Search the left-column listings under "Studio Gallery" for "Jewelry" to see the new work; the direct link is [www.gkb-furniture.com/home.php?series=17](http://www.gkb-furniture.com/home.php?series=17). Under "Tables" one can find (at top of page) an image of the big bronze coffee table "prototype" next to the white chair in the gallery shot. Listed under the title of the exhibition at NAGA—"Lights, Tables, Bling," one will find the lamps and the other two smaller bronze (and wood prototype tables) editions. See [www.gkb-furniture.com/home.php?series=16](http://www.gkb-furniture.com/home.php?series=16).

JRA member and ceramist **Rebecca Cross** of Cross Mackenzie Ceramic Arts Gallery has moved her gallery from Georgetown to Dupont Circle. The new address is 2026 R Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009. The phone number is 202 333-7970 and email is [rcrossart@aol.com](mailto:rcrossart@aol.com). Summer hours for the gallery are by appointment only. We wish Becca the best of luck in her new space.

JRA member and jeweler **Komelia Hongja Okim** has created a gallery in her studio at home. Stay tuned for an announcement for the opening of her new space. She can be reached at [komeliaokim@yahoo.com](mailto:komeliaokim@yahoo.com) or [komelia.okim@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:komelia.okim@montgomerycollege.edu).

## GALLERY CAUCUS MEMBERS as of June 30, 2011

## ARTISTS CIRCLE FINE ART

Jack Devine  
13501 Travilah Road  
North Potomac, MD 20878  
301 947-7400  
[www.artcfa.com](http://www.artcfa.com)

## DEL MANO GALLERY

Jan Peters and Ray Leier  
11918 San Vicente Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90049  
1-800-del-Mano  
[www.delmano.com](http://www.delmano.com)

## LACOSTE GALLERY

Lucy Lacoste  
25 Main Street  
Concord, MA 01742  
978 369-0278  
[www.lacostegallery.com](http://www.lacostegallery.com)

## JEFFREY SPAHN GALLERY

Jeffrey Spahn  
225 Hartford Street, #2  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
415 519-2857  
[www.jeffreyspahn.com](http://www.jeffreyspahn.com)

## SNYDERMAN-WORKS GALLERY

Rick and Ruth Snyderman  
303 Cherry Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106-1803  
215 238-9576  
[www.snyderman-works.com](http://www.snyderman-works.com)

## What are the JRA Fellows Doing Now?

Compiled by Elmerina and Paul Parkman

### Dana E. Byrd

*Reconstructions:*

*The Material Culture of the Plantation,*  
2009–2010

During the year of my James Renwick Fellowship in American Craft, I made a great deal of progress researching and writing my dissertation on the material culture of the South Carolina Sea Island plantation. Rather than focusing on a single media, I use a range of objects, including architecture, decorative arts, textiles, photography and painting to consider the representation of this vexed space during the Civil War and Reconstruction periods. The post-bellum period is an important one; it signaled the end of slavery, the central institution of Southern life. Meanwhile the plantation, the primary organizational unit of Sea Island life, remained an object of investigation, commentary and

contestation for northerners and southerners alike. In my research last year, I discovered that this spirit is evident in the work of northern photographers, such as Henry P. Moore who depicted the federally occupied plantation as a productive space rich with ample labor and natural resources, including rice for consumption, cotton for manufacturing and even materials for sweet grass basket-making.

Since my Renwick fellowship ended a year ago, I have continued to research and craft a narrative for my plantation project. I moved to Charleston, SC to conduct extensive fieldwork in the state. Much of my focus this year was on investigating the former freedmen's town, Mitchellville, on Hilton Head Island, SC. Using land carved from a cotton plantation, newly freed slaves who were not yet citizens created a self-governing town.

Although much of my work in the past few years has been engaged with 19th century craft throughout the post-bellum period, I remain committed to the study of contemporary craft. Residency in South Carolina brought me into contact with many regional artists including sweet grass basket makers. Of late, I have been intrigued by the latest iteration of the grass weaving tradition; young African-American men create and sell palmetto flowers. The dynamic nature of American craft whether found on historic plantations or in contemporary studios will undoubtedly inspire my research for decades to come. I am grateful for the support of the James Renwick Alliance in furthering my scholarship.



# Four Distinguished Artists Enlighten at Demos, Discussions and Lectures



Judith Schaechter

Photos by Miriam Rosenthal



Ubaldo Vitali

## UBALDO VITALI LEADS A SALON DISCUSSION

In April, fifth generation silversmith **Ubaldo Vitali**—featured in the 2011 Renwick Invitational—came to Washington for a Distinguished Artist Series weekend.

On Saturday, April 16 he conducted an intimate salon discussion, hosted by Lawrence Miller & Co. silversmiths in Alexandria, VA. The group included collectors and makers, as well as historical silver enthusiasts, and the fascinating discussion drew upon Vitali's long and varied experience as a scholar, conservator, designer, and creator of extraordinary commissions in silver and gold.

On Sunday, Vitali presented a slide lecture on his body of work and influences before a rapt audience in the Grand Salon of the Renwick Gallery. —CHRIS SHEA

## JUDITH SCHAECHTER ADDRESSES THE THEME OF CREATIVITY

On Saturday, May 21, JRA members and guests were treated to a fascinating workshop with Philadelphia's distinguished glass artist, **Judith Schaechter**, exploring the nature of creativity and followed by a hands-on opportunity to engage the creativity of participants.

Judith defines creativity as a process opposite to digestion, "taking essence and manifesting physical form." Creativity, she notes, is not assembling or arranging. Rather, it entails making something from nothing. To underscore the point she quotes scientist Carl Sagan: "If you wish to make an apple pie from scratch, you must first invent the universe."

Her theme is that creation is conceptualized as a circle: moving from conception (inspiration), to inception (actualization), to ejection (moving out into the world). She goes on to say that stated differently, the cycle begins with naïveté and wonder, progresses to fluency and mastery, continues to decadence with heightened possibilities and eventual tedium. Judith sees this cycle of rebirth, growth, mastery, decay and death repeating within a day, a project, a lifetime. Each time it requires a leap of faith for the artist to reinvent and begin again with a new idea, she said.

Judith imagines artistic creation as an automobile. The steering wheel is the artist's eye, hand and brain. The eye visually explores and perceives designs; the hand tactically explores and manipulates materials; and the brain processes inspiration through interpretation into a choice of subject. The engine is the identity of the artist. It includes personality traits such as self-awareness, self-transcendence, creativity, adaptability, drive to succeed, and willingness to fail. It also encompasses education, general knowledge, skill level and talent, as well as beliefs, ability to concentrate, and tolerance of complexity and tension. The wheels in her model are the artist's motivation, self-discipline, organizing skills and ability to slog through difficulties



Holly Lee



and tedium. The brakes are the healthy ability to self-critique, to chose one idea out of many to explore and to prune those elements or entire pieces that do not further the creation. In the ideal process, artistic creation flows naturally, powered by inspiration and drive, combined with knowledge and technique from the unconscious of the artist into its own, unique physical form.

After this inspiring glimpse of the ideal creative process, workshop participants engaged in an exercise called “exquisite corpse,” drawing one body part on the top of a sheet of paper, folding it over to hide the picture and passing it along to another participant to draw the next part. Each person drew a head, torso and legs on different folded sheets and then opened a page to view the eclectic masterpiece at hand. Some drawings were particularly delightful. The ultimate adventure involved painting a head, torso and feet on individual pieces of glass, then exchanging the various pieces to create JRA workshop masterworks.

Judith showed 200 slides of her approach to her work at the Renwick Gallery on Sunday, May 22 to an audience of about 100 people. —JACKIE UROW

## HOLLY & CLIFF LEE SHARE THEIR HISTORY

**Cliff and Holly Lee** spent two and a half hours on Saturday, June 18, showing more than 20 JRA members and artists from the Gateway Arts Center how he throws and carves pots, while Holly demonstrated how to make a sphere from silver.

This was the last of the four Distinguished Artists weekends which began in January, all of which were sold out well in advance. Cliff’s ceramics are on display at the Renwick Gallery’s 2011 Invitational exhibition until July 31.

Sunday was a special day at the Renwick Gallery’s Grand Salon. In an effort to educate the Washington community about their work, Holly explored their history of making jewelry and pots starting in a little “mustard colored house in south Arlington.” Cliff interjected personal recollections of their journey from Arlington to a gallery in Georgetown and finally to their home and studio in Amish/Mennonite country in Stevens, PA. —NOVIE TRUMP



The Distinguished Artist Series has been supported this year by a matching grant from the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, an agency supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

## COMING IN OCTOBER...

### CHALLENGES IN CARING FOR CRAFT AND DECORATIVE ARTS COLLECTIONS IN THE HOME

On October 29 at the Corcoran School of Art, **Jane Norman** and **Catharine Valentour**, objects conservators, will lead a hands-on workshop/discussion focusing on pieces in a wide variety of mediums brought in by participants seeking advice about best ways to display, maintain, and store their piece, and how to know when to call on the services of a professional conservator.

This will be followed by a tour of the *Something of Splendor: Decorative Arts from the White House* exhibition at the Renwick Gallery to point out and discuss additional types of objects and their conservation issues. The program is limited to 20 people.

The program on Sunday, October 30 in the Renwick Gallery’s Grand Salon at 2 p.m. will be a 15-minute illustrated presentation by each of three participants, followed by a discussion among the panel and questions from the audience.

The speakers are: William Allman, White House Curator, who will speak on “Challenges of Caring for the White House Collection;” Bruce M. Schuettinger, Furniture and Wooden Artifacts Conservator, on “Caring for Furniture and Wooden Objects,” and Eryl P. Wentworth, Executive Director, American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) on “What is Art Conservation?” —BARBARA WOLANIN

## MEET THE NEW JRA ADMINISTRATOR



Cicie Sattarnilasskorn

Hello JRA Members. I want to take a moment to introduce myself as the new Administrator for the James Renwick Alliance.

Prior to joining the JRA, I was an accounting associate at Finesse Tax Accounting, LLC in Washington, DC. Though the experience was extremely educational and fun (yes, taxes can be fun), my passion has always been for the arts. I received a B.A. in art

history from Tufts University as well as a post-graduate museum studies certificate. After five long Boston winters, I found my way to Washington, DC where I earned my M.A. in art history from the George Washington University. Since graduating, I have had the opportunity to work in a small contemporary art gallery, a private art foundation and in some of the area’s finest museums including the Newseum and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.

I am thrilled to take on this new position and to be a part of this great organization. I look forward to working with all the JRA board members and to meeting with members at various events in the coming year.

The Bethesda office will be open Monday–Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you have any questions or wish to drop by the office and say hello, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 301 907-3888 or by email at [admin@jra.org](mailto:admin@jra.org). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cicie Sattarnilasskorn, *Administrator*

# Save the Dates!

(JRA events in red)

## July

30 Craft Leaders Caucus summer social, Hay-Adams Hotel with Matthias Pliessnig.

## September

13 JRA board meeting.

TBA Local study tour.

## October

1 *Something of Splendor: Decorative Arts from the White House* opens to the public. Lecture at 12 noon by William Allman, Curator of the White House.

4 JRA Annual membership meeting, Renwick Gallery Grand Salon, 6:30 p.m.

11 JRA Board Meeting.

16–23 Craft Leaders Caucus Study Tour to Venice, Italy.

29 Distinguished Artist Series workshop “Conserving Your Art Work.”

30 DAS Panel Discussion, featuring William Allman, Curator of the White House, Renwick Gallery Grand Salon, 2 p.m.

## November

3 Opening Night Preview, SOFA Chicago 2011.

4–6 SOFA Chicago.

5 JRA Brunch, 9:30–11 a.m.

19 JRA Day, JRA Bay.

## December

2–4 24th Annual Washington Craft Show, Washington Convention Center.

6 JRA Board Meeting.

# JRA Day

## MEMBER EXHIBITION AND SALE

The JRA is happy to announce that we will move forward with the fourth annual JRA Day to be held on Saturday, November 19 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. This date will neither compete with SOFA Chicago, which many members attend, nor the Washington Craft Show and precedes Thanksgiving weekend. The Woman’s Club of Chevy Chase continues to be the best venue available for our event with ample free parking, an easily accessible one-story main exhibit hall, and plenty of tables and panels for our use.

Lots of work by lots of people go into setting up JRA Day; and the financial return is not the only consideration. It is a fun event for the participating members, an opportunity for the artists to show their work to both other JRA members and the public, a chance for the JRA to interact with potential new members who come to the show and an opportunity for artist and non-artist members to get to know each other. This year the WCCC has offered us a 25% discount, which will help our bottom line.

—MALLORY LAWSON

**ABOVE**, a computer chip quilt by Eric Celarier, who was recognized as an Artist of Distinction by JRA at ARTamatic 2009. Look for his work at JRA Day.



## THE JRA AT PLAY—BEACH TRIP, LADIES ONLY

We need several more JRA members to sign up for the fantastic beach trip to Annapolis and Rehoboth. Limit is 10. Sorry, guys, this is for girls only. The two-day trip on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 16 and 17, is in the middle of the week to avoid the weekend traffic and crowds at the beach.

We will first visit the beach collections of William and Nancy Schneider in Annapolis for lunch; then travel on to the homes of Bruce and Leslie Lane, Marc and Diane Grainer, and Deena and Jerry Kaplan in Rehoboth and Lewes. We will stay at Chez Kaplan (Deena) in Rehoboth, hang out at the beach and feast on seafood Wednesday noon at Gilligan’s Waterfront Restaurant in Lewes for excellent seafood with some of the best outdoor dining available. The restaurant sits on over 90 feet of water frontage, giving diners a relaxing experience.

Cost: \$400 per person includes four meals and lodging for one night and a tax deductible contribution to the James Renwick Alliance.

For information and to sign up, please call Mallory Lawson, 202 337-2805 or email to [MalloryLawsonASID@msn.com](mailto:MalloryLawsonASID@msn.com).



## CRAFT LEADERS CAUCUS MEMBERS

as of June 30, 2011

Peter and Nedra Agnew  
 Carolyn S. Alper  
 John and Sharon Amdall  
 Marilyn Barrett  
 Char Beales  
 Arnold and Barbara Berlin  
 Jeffrey Bernstein and Judith Chernoff  
 Joan Borinstein  
 Fleur Bresler  
 Samuel and Gail Broder  
 Robert and Sharon Buchanan  
 Kevin and Kathleen Buchi  
 Leonard and Frances Burka  
 Russell and Marian Burke  
 Sorrell Caplan  
 Ryna Cohen  
 Norman and Suzanne Cohn\*  
 Camille and Alex Cook  
 Jeffery P. Cunard  
 Judith Davis and Michael Micheliger  
 David Dorsen and Kenna Peusner\*  
 Elizabeth Doyle\*  
 Miriam and Leon Ellsworth  
 Brenda Erickson  
 Burton and Anne Fishman  
 Oscar P. Fitzgerald  
 Genevieve A. Gee  
 Marilyn and Louis Glickfield  
 Marsha Gold  
 Marc and Diane Grainer  
 Carol and Joseph Green  
 J.G. Harrington and Jere Gibber  
 Tina Fried Heller  
 Lloyd Herman  
 Giselle and Benjamin Huberman  
 Reba and Mark Immergut  
 Norman and Jane Jacobs\*

Shirley Jacobs  
 Jerome and Deena Kaplan  
 Sharon Karmazin and David Greene  
 William and Sue Kolodner  
 Sherley and Bernard Koteen  
 Myra and Stephen Kurzbard  
 Barbara Laughlin  
 Mallory Lawson  
 Clara Lent  
 Anne Mehrlinger and Terry Beaty  
 Laurel and Robert Mendelsohn  
 Ingrid B. Meyer  
 John Meyerhoff and Lenel Srochi-Meyerhoff  
 Robert Minkoff  
 Sandy and Norman Mitchell  
 Clemmer and David Montague  
 Geraldine Ostrove\*  
 Gwen and Jerome Paulson  
 Julia Perlman  
 Rebecca Ravenal  
 Chris Rifkin  
 Micheal and Tamara Root\*  
 Michel and Karen Rotenberg  
 Aletta Schaap  
 Nancy and William Schneider  
 Bonnie and Gilbert Schwartz  
 Ruth and Hugh Sickel  
 Diane and Igal Silber  
 Irene Sinclair  
 Jeffrey Spahn  
 Jacqueline D. Urow  
 Kathryn Van Wuk  
 Barbara Waldman and Dennis Winger  
 Judith Weisman\*  
 Pati Young\*  
 \*new caucus member