



Mission Statement

The Blue Ridge Fine Arts Guild (BRAG) promotes the works and activities of artists working in two-dimensional media in Yancey, Mitchell, and Avery counties and the surrounding areas of Western North Carolina. BRAG is an avenue for artist education and exposure through programs, workshops, exhibitions, and the internet, and seeks to promote and encourage the arts among its members, local schools, and the public.

Check out our On-Line Store to use PAYPAL



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December 2011 - BRAG Newsletter

From the Editor...

It's hard to believe that this is the last newsletter of 2011. This year has gone by much too quickly. The holidays are here and 2012 is only days away. 2011 will always shine in our history book, thanks to our Route 80 show this past summer. It will be fun to see what the new year will bring.

Wishing you a very happy holiday....

Susan Garriques

BRAG will NOT be holding a meeting in December. Whether or not to hold a January meeting will be decided closer to the scheduled date and based on weather.

BRAG's November meeting featured guest artist Ellen White, who discussed "The Fundamentals of Painting". Ellen teaches art in Atlanta, Georgia. Her work is currently on exhibit at The Design Gallery in Burnsville and you can learn more about her on her website at www.ellenwhitedesign.com

The Avery Arts Council would like BRAG to do an exhibition for August 2012, at the Dickson Gallery in the Cannon Memorial Hospital, in Avery County. A vote was taken at the October meeting and the members agreed on doing the show. The members will be allowed to submit one painting each, in a size of approximately 16" x 20" or less.

The scaled down version of the Route 80 Show at the Burnsville library, originally planned for sometime this winter, has been postponed until a date later in 2012. The later date will hopefully allow all BRAG members to participate.

Rhea Ormond volunteered for the Publicity Chair position. Thanks, Rhea!

Peggy Home, our Program Chairperson, is working hard to schedule programs for our meetings. She has arranged for a representative from Golden Acrylics to do a presentation for our April meeting. If you have any requests or ideas for a presentation, please be sure to contact Peggy.

We've decided to change the Creative Challenge from a "word" based subject matter to a "photo". Each month a photo will be included in the newsletter and members are encouraged to paint from that photo. It should be quite interesting to see how everyone handles the subject matter. Feel free to crop and edit as you wish. You may bring your paintings to the meetings, or if you would prefer, send photos of your paintings to Susan Garriques for the newsletter. And... you don't have to finish it for a specific month - there won't be any deadlines. So if you don't get to paint this month's photo till November or December, no worries. Just have fun.

The Creative Challenge Photo for December:(if you would like a higher resolution image (larger image) for printing - or an image from a previous Creative Challenge, please email Susan Garriques)

John Eisegood has completed the new website, which went on line on January 1st. If you haven't sent him your work - it is not too late. He will be amending it once a month until everyone has the work and biography they want. His instructions are below...

As you all know I am redesigning the website to make it more user friendly, add an on-line shop, a calendar that is easy to understand and things like downloadable membership forms etc.

This is a very large project, so please follow all of my instructions, (if you send me too much copy on your biography, the number of your paintings allowed would drop to 5 or 4 —rather than 6. (I plan on having six per member.)

BIOGRAPHY: 150 to 180 words to best describe you, your background and your work.

PHOTOGRAPH: a Portrait in proportions of 5:3 ( i.e. 5 inches high by 3 inches wide)



Ellen White



Artist: Carol Bailey



Creative Challenge



Artist: Susan Garriques

(Portrait composition)

**WORK:** 6 pieces of work digitally formatted and preferably jpg to 300K -minimum with title, size and medium.

**LINKS:** Either to your own website, or a website where your paintings can be viewed. (Website URL)

**ON-LINE SHOP:** One item per paid member for right now-- that you want to sell on-line, this would be sold through BRAG and Paypal. An agreed fee would have to be reached before on -line shop is operational. This item would have the price, title, medium, whether framed or unframed and size framed with image size. Postage and packaging would be extra --and determined later. --Same with insurance. The size of packaged item would determine the best shipping options.

Many of you have already had a page on the BRAG website before. If you wish to use the same photograph or copy that accompanies it, please recheck to make sure it follows all my guidelines.

If you require yourself or your work to be photographed please contact me [jelsegood@frontier.com](mailto:jelsegood@frontier.com) ---so we can include all artists and make this a complete and powerful website.

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**Barbara Kahn** is offering an Art and Aromatherapy Class - "Solstice Art & Liquid Incense" on Monday, December 19th from 5-7 pm at Mountainside Wine in Spruce Pine. Cost is only \$35 and all materials are provided. Space is limited to 12 people. Register and pay for classes at Mountainside Wine - 828.766.7515.

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**The Avery Arts Council** is now accepting applications for exhibition during our 2012 season. The call is open to all residents and part-time residents of Avery, Mitchell, Yancey, Madison, Buncombe, Watauga, and Ashe counties. The call will be open until all exhibition space is filled. Applications are being taken for the Avery Gallery, both Exhibiting Artists and Shop Artists; and the Dickson Gallery Exhibiting Artists. The Avery Arts Council is also responsible for furnishing several spaces in the county with art. To learn more, visit [www.averyartscouncil.org](http://www.averyartscouncil.org) or come to the Arts Council office, inside the Avery Gallery at 77 Ruffin St, Linville, NC 28646

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**Raleigh Fine Arts Society, Raleigh**

Raleigh Fine Arts Society has issued a call for artists for its 2012 North Carolina Artists Exhibition to be held Sunday, March 4, through Wednesday, May 2, 2012, at the Betty Ray McCain Gallery in the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts in Raleigh. Artists 18 years and older who reside in N.C. may submit up to two (2) two- or three-dimensional works. Cash prizes totaling \$6,000 will be awarded. Entry fee applies.

Deadline: January 11

For more information: <http://www.raleighfinearts.org/nc-arts-exhibition>

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**One last note** - it's about the Money Jar. You may have noticed a vase or a jar placed near the refreshments at each meeting and you may have assumed that was to help pay for the coffee and cookies. BUT..... BRAG pays the Town Center \$30 for each night that we meet. The "Money Jar" is meant to help pay the rent. If each member attending the meeting will contribute \$1 it will just about cover the cost of the rental. Please don't forget to add your dollar when you come to the meetings. Every dollar helps!