

The Well Crafted Word

a monthly publication of the **Del Ray Artisans**...since 1992

www.thedelrayartisans.org

Alexandria's young artists exhibit their work at Del Ray Artisans

Jeanne Tiftt

The Del Ray Artisans and the T.C. Williams High School Art Department jointly present the 12th Annual Student Art show at the Del Ray Artisans gallery, from Friday, May 1, 2009 through Sunday, May 17th, 2009. The opening reception is 7 pm to 10 pm on Friday, May 1st. This annual event showcases Alexandria's artists of the future.



Patricia J. Lewis, Chair, Department of Art, T.C. Williams High School and Bright Owusu-Ansah, student

The exhibiting students, juniors and seniors in the high school art department, are all members of the National Art Honor Society, selected upon recommendation by their teacher after completing two years of art classes and showing exemplary achievement. Much of the work exhibited is retained for the student's portfolio, submitted in application to art schools after graduation from high school. Many past students are now working professionally in some aspect of the art business. Some individuals are now: special effects artist — web designer — fashion designer — animator — sculptor — or art teacher.

Mixed Media Multiplied

Jeanne Tiftt

The next all-member show at the Del Ray Artisans gallery, scheduled to open June 26, 2009, will showcase a variety of mixed media and perhaps also a multimedia work produced by members of the Del Ray Artisans. The Call for Entries is included in this issue of the newsletter and can also be found on our website.

There are three main requirements: (1) your membership must be up to date; (2) each of your entries, to be accepted, must employ at least three, and preferably four or more, DIFFERENT media or materials that are unified into one work; and (3) you MUST sign up to gallery sit for at least one time slot during the run of the show.

The curators are Jeanne Tiftt, jtiftt@cox.net or 703-960-3873, and Dee Ellison, dbellison@verizon.net or 703-532-3317.

We look forward enormously to seeing what all of you come up with.

Communications Corner

Paige Ireland

Hopefully, you are seeing lots of information about Del Ray Artisans in the press and various event calendars. Here is what we have accomplished in the past month:

- Several illustrated feature articles have been produced and as of this writing, one was published in the Alexandria Gazette Packet, 3/19/09 issue and one is included in this issue of the Well Crafted Word. Please share your ideas or suggestions for articles so we can share our DRA experience with others.
- Upcoming DRA events are posted in various on-line and print-based event calendars as well as on Facebook. We are particularly interested in learning how to get information out to various neighborhood associations and other arts-related special interest groups. If you don't see our events listed in one of your information sources, please let me know or forward the newsletter to DRA.Communications@gmail.com.
- Are you receiving our weekly e-mail announcements? If not, please go to our website, www.TheDelRayArtisans.org and sign up for the weekly e-newsletter.
- Would you be willing to help us distribute postcards and flyers/posters to clearly identified drop off points? We need your help! Please let me know of your interest and availability as well as the geographic area(s) that would be most convenient for you.

As you might imagine, it takes a lot of time and effort to get the word out...and DRA needs your help. Please share your ideas, skills, knowledge and experience. Contact me at DRA.communications@gmail.com or 703.582.1019 if you would like to get involved or if you would like to offer some suggestions.

Donations of Funds and Supplies Needed For Eco Art Camp

Jen Athanas



L-R Jared Harris and Teyvonne Wells get messy with glue, photo by Stacy Rausch

Planning is underway for the Del Ray Artisans Art Camp. Kids will get artfully green with earth friendly projects. The focus is to use re-purposed materials to encourage artistic creativity and environmental awareness.

Along these lines, we are requesting some special material donations. Specifically, we are looking for:

- Small metal objects to be used for wind chimes, such as keys and washers
- Pringles canisters, or similar tubular container, with lids
- Sized large t-shirts
- Metal tins from Altoids or similar shape/size
- Campaign signs, complete with metal stand

Remember, the theme is eco-friendly, so these items should be used, not bought new.

In addition, donations are needed to sponsor a camper for this wonderful experience. Each year, DRA strives to enable children of all backgrounds to experience the creative freedom of art camp. Any and all donations are welcome no matter what size.

Lastly, volunteers are always needed for this fun week. From enriching young lives by inspiring budding talents, to filling little bellies with healthy foods, there is a need for each and every task during this adventure with the kids. Please consider volunteering your time, it goes toward your membership requirement for the year and toward good community feeling, forever.

There are forms online for donations and registration of campers. Please contact Art Camp Coordinator, Jen Athanas to arrange a drop off of donated materials or to schedule to volunteer, at 571-332-0181 or jenathanas@hotmail.com.



L-R Derrick Almond and Cieira Huff enjoy healthy, yummy lunches, Photo by Megan Cook

6th Annual Spring Outdoor Art Sale!

Rob Rudick

Del Ray Artisans (DRA) will hold the 6th annual Spring Outdoor Art Sale on Saturday, May 9th, 2009 (the day before Mother's Day), from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Original works from over 20 Del Ray artisans in a variety of 2D and 3D media will be featured. Media include painting, photography, pottery, jewelry, fashion accessories, fabric art, and a few surprises. The timing of the sale affords art buyers a chance to purchase unique, one-of-a-kind gifts for Mother's Day.

Coordinator Rob Rudick explained that the Spring Outdoor Art Sales is a great opportunity to see and acquire a wide array of artwork from Del Ray

Artisans members. Additionally, many artists will be offering unframed prints and matted work at prices lower than framed pieces.

The sale will be held in the Nicholas A. Colasanto Park, adjoining the Del Ray Artisans gallery at 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA. This is a rain or shine event and is free and open to the public. For more information about the Spring Outdoor Art Sale, contact Rob Rudick at 301.270.2323 or robrudick@yahoo.com or visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Join DRA as an Artist or Supporter

Renewal

New Member

Name _____
Title First Middle Initial Last

Additional Name _____

Organization/CorporationName _____

Address _____

Street City State Zip
Phone Home (_____) Cell (_____) Work (_____) _____

e-mail _____

Artist Media _____

Patron

- \$1,000 Platinum
- \$500 Gold
- \$250 Silver

Patrons are considered Active Members and have exhibition privileges. Volunteer hours are not expected.

Active Member

- \$75 Household
- \$50 Individual
- \$25 Senior (62 & over)
- \$25 Student/Disabled (circle one)

All Active Members enjoy privileges of exhibiting in shows and are expected to contribute a minimum of 10 volunteer hours per year. This does not include volunteer commitments for exhibiting in shows.

Friend

- \$35 Friend of Del Ray Artisans

Friends may participate in workshops, classes, and programs as members. Friends do not have exhibition privileges. Volunteer hours are not expected.

All membership levels above receive DRA mailings, including the newsletter

I would like to receive DRA mailings: electronically via regular mail both ways

I would like to make an additional donation to Del Ray Artisans in the amount of \$_____.

I would like to make an additional donation to the Del Ray Artisans Ted Eichers Memorial Art Scholarship in the amount of \$_____.

Please indicate committees you are willing to serve on, to meet your 10 hour volunteer commitment:

- | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Communications | <input type="radio"/> Newsletter | <input type="radio"/> Website | <input type="radio"/> Publicity | <input type="radio"/> Archives | <input type="radio"/> Administrative | <input type="radio"/> Financial; |
| <input type="radio"/> Fundraising | <input type="radio"/> Grants | <input type="radio"/> Facilities | <input type="radio"/> Gardening | <input type="radio"/> Volunteers | <input type="radio"/> Outreach | <input type="radio"/> Shows |
| <input type="radio"/> Programs | <input type="radio"/> anything DRA needs. | | | | | |

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Checks payable to: DEL RAY ARTISANS. Mail to: Del Ray Artisans, Membership, 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301 or pay online at www.thedelrayartisans.org

In Search of Show Proposals 2010

Michele Reday Cook

Your show selection committee invites you to submit your proposals for the 2010 exhibition schedule.

We are currently updating our show proposal form, but in the meantime you can still send us your ideas. Here's what we want to know:

- Title or theme and description of your exhibit
- Who is eligible (open to all or DRA only)
- Your submission requirements (juried, medium, subject matter, interpretation of theme)
- Possible dates
- Basic income/expense projections.

Last month, we promised you some ideas to get your own creative juices flowing. Some of these may even be ideas you gave us! Claim your own ideas quickly!

- Feature a specific medium (paintings, sculpture, photography, 3D...). These could also be collaborations with other organizations (fiber, wood, poetry groups, etc).
- Feature a specific theme or subject (still life, black & white, nature/landscape; our community; objects, architecture, street life, people).
- Do something we haven't done recently—an exhibit of abstract art?
- Perhaps juxtaposed with works of photorealism?

We could go on and on, but we would rather hear from YOU.

The deadline for proposals is August 1st. The updated proposal form will be available in the newsletter and online by early June.

Contact any show committee member: Michele Reday Cook (mreday-cook@mac.com), Karen Schmitz (schmityk@yahoo.com), Ron Tickerhoff (rontickerhoff@apta.org), Jeanne Tiffit (jldtiffit@cox.net), Monica Wise (moniwise@yahoo.com).

Many Thanks!

Michele Reday Cook

Curators Betsy Mead and Michele Reday Cook want to thank everyone who made the opening of “Celebrate the Art of Making” such a success. For all of you who brought in such wonderful art for us to display; for help at receiving from Jeanne Tiff and Hillary Mead; for the expert hanging help of Ron Blank, Dawn Wyse Hurto, Alicia Ensey, Monica Wise, and Theresa Kulstad; for lighting by Richard Wyville and Marlin Lord; and for the wall tags by Laura Bell, who also produced the fine catalogue of the show; and last but not least, for the superb publicity generated by Paige Ireland and by Mary Louise Clifford’s article in the Gazette. We are so appreciative of all your efforts—we couldn’t have done it without you!

Thank You.

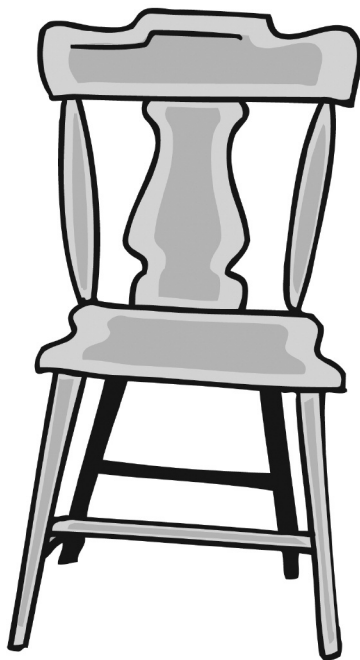
UpBeat OffBeat UpDate

Kurt Peterson

We now have all the furniture! We still need help in prepping the furniture for the artists. We will be meeting on Saturday, May 16th, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Sunday, May 17th, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at 2030 N. Adams Street in Arlington again. Please contact Kurt Peterson at 703-489-9851 if you are able to help.

Artists may adopt a piece of furniture by going to the DRA website and click on UpBeat OffBeat Auction. When you find the furniture you would like to work on please contact Kurt by email kfpeterson@gmail.com.

Towards the end of May and the beginning of June artists will be able to pick up their furniture at the gallery. Kurt will be contacting the artists for the best times for pickup.



New Member Gets a Meow of a Gig!

Karen Schmitz

Friday’s opening of “Celebrate the Art of Making” was the first time DRA’s newest member, Guy “Gregory” Jones, has exhibited his pen and ink animal drawings in over 20 years. On Saturday he received a surprise call that someone was interested in him doing some drawings for a non-profit campaign for children’s safety involving a “Crime Cat”. So, on Sunday, Guy, along with his daughter Sutton, met with this potential client dressed in a fluffy full-body cat suit at the gallery. MEOW! In a matter of 24 hours this was a “purr”fect art boost indeed.

For the past 20 years Guy was the production manager for the former Foliograph Gallery and now manages a picture framing store in Potomac. Currently, his art has gone to the dogs as he works on “Dog Gone” for entry in the May “Bond for Life” exhibit! Bow-Wow-Wow-Yippie-Yo-Yippie-Yay to Guy!

On Your Mark . . .

Get Set . . .

RAY-CE! RAY-CE! RAY-CE!

Don’t be Clueless! Who is that strange character sitting at the corner of Hume and Mt. Vernon Avenue? What is the most ordered dish at Los Tios? Do you know the location of the old firehouse?

Join in the fun at the Amazing Del Ray-ce on Saturday, June 6 when teams “ray-ce” through Del Ray in search of answers to clues to win this combination scavenger hunt, Amazing Race, Jeopardy event. Prizes will be awarded at the dessert reception following the Ray-ce.

The Ray-ce begins at 2:30 pm at the Del Ray Artisans gallery and all clue books must be turned in by 4:00 pm for tallying. Winners will be announced at the dessert reception, which runs from 4:00 to 5:00 pm.

Form your own team of friends and neighbors or be assigned a team of new friends at registration. The cost is \$10/adult or \$5/child under 17. While participants may sign up on the day of the event, early registration is definitely recommended. Register for the Amazing Ray-ce on the DRA website: www.TheDelRayArtisans.org or call the DRA Gallery at 703.838.4827.

An additional feature at the reception will be a raffle of fabulous prizes which have been donated by local Del Ray businesses. Early opportunities to buy your raffle tickets at the May 22nd opening of the DRA exhibit “Bond for Life” will be available.

The Amazing Del Ray-ce is a joint fundraising project with the Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden. All proceeds from the event will benefit both organizations.

Any questions, contact Barbara Boehm, 703-838-6265 barbxb@yahoo.com or Linda Elliff, 703-3601265 lleliff@aol.com

Don’t be Clueless!

DRA Will Award Art Scholarship

Lynn Wyvill

This May will mark the 10th time that DRA has awarded the Ted Eichers Memorial Art Scholarship to a T.C. Williams High School graduate who is attending college to continue his or her art education. The big news is that this year's recipient will receive \$1000, an increase over the \$600 awarded in the past.

The 2009 scholarship winner will be announced at the DRA Student Art show opening reception, May 1 from 7-10 PM. The scholarship will be presented at an awards ceremony on May 28th at 7 PM at the TC Williams Auditorium. DRA President Linda Silk, who has made the scholarship presentation for



Keriann Cassidy (left) and Linda Silk (right)

several years says it's always a thrill to "to revisit that age when your future opens up in front of you and you have so many choices, so many opportunities. For a few hours, I envy every student at the award ceremony. While our contribution doesn't begin to cover the costs of their education, the students are grateful, and so are their parents, and they are certainly deserving."

The past awardees are Daniel Krahn (2000), Brian McCarthy (2001), Kimberley Burke (2002), Caroline Gullickson (2003), Michaela Murphy (2004), Claire Schoen (2005), Keriann Cassidy (2006), Thomas Carroll (2007), and Olivia T. Morrow (2008).

Keriann Cassidy, who is studying at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City, says, "Supplies can be very expensive so having the scholarship helped me with buying my textbooks, as well as numerous supplies that I constantly use. Though I haven't followed the fine arts path, I believe that

fashion design is a way for me to express myself artistically and the Ted Eichers Scholarship has helped me make my dreams for my future come true."

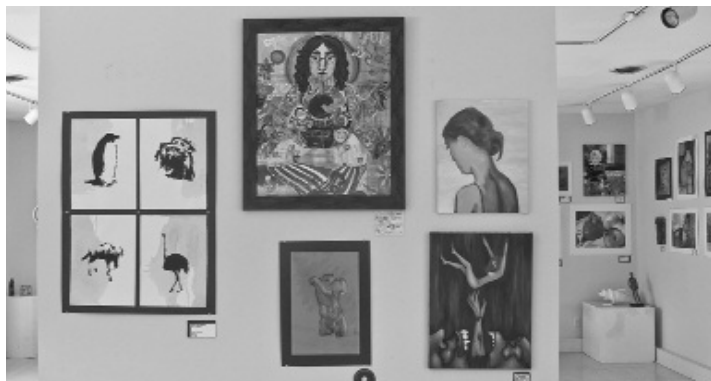
Scholarship recipients are selected by a committee of teachers based on the criteria set by DRA. The student must have at least a B average, show extraordinary potential in art and be planning to major in an art-related field.

The scholarship is named for Ted Eichers, a DRA member who passed away in 1997, whose art and volunteerism exemplified the spirit of DRA. Ted studied art at Northern Virginia Community College after he retired. He created intricate scenes with wood veneers that he shared, along with his companionship, with nursing home residents, jail inmates, and at-risk youth in Alexandria, Ted's wife, Alice, serves on the Scholarship Committee along with two sons, Tim and Danny. Alice says, "The choice to study any graphic art form is a huge leap of faith in your talent. I think far more than the small monetary stipend, being selected for the scholarship is an affirmation of that choice."

DRA Treasurer Marlin Lord says the scholarship is funded "through donations earmarked for the (Ted Eichers) scholarship fund and interest on DRA accounts over the years." Account interest enabled DRA to raise the scholarship amount this year. The ultimate goal is to fund the scholarship entirely by donations.

This year donations got a boost from "The Snipping" event where DRA Assistant Treasurer, Kathryn Brown, cut her hair to donate to Locks of Love. Supporters of that event donated over \$550 to benefit the DRA's scholarship fund.

Tax-deductible contributions to DRA's Ted Eichers Memorial Art Scholarship Fund are welcome at any time.



Recent Student Art Show at the gallery

People's Choice Awards Celebrate the Art of Making



At the opening reception, gallery visitors were asked to select their choices for award-worthy art, by affixing one or more stars next to the work(s) they felt deserved merit.

Stars were counted up, with those receiving the most stars the winners of the "Peoples' Choice Awards" as follows:

Best in Show:

Alan Becker, for "Turquoise Trail"

Honorable Mention:

Richard Wyville, for "Neighborhood House"

Anna Bohlun-Sterud, for "Springtime"

Betsy Mead, for "Light Panel"

Hillary Mead, for "Sunburst Table"

Maryse Lortscher, for "Mirage"

Diane McClougherty, for "Decanter and Cloth"

Congratulations to our award-winners!



Nicholas A. Colasanto Center
2704 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22301

703.838.4827
www.thedelrayartisans.org

Gallery Hours:
Thurs: noon-4 pm/First Thursdays (open until 9 pm)
Fri: noon-9 pm
Sat: 10 am-9 pm
Sun: noon-6 pm
The gallery is open during all events and performances

Submission Deadline : 5th of the month
Editor: DRAeditor@gmail.com

Del Ray Artisans 2009 Calendar

May

- 1 - 17 TC Williams Student Show
- 4 Life Drawing, 2-5 pm *short poses*
- 7 First Thursday Del Ray, Gallery open until 9 pm
- 9 Spring Sale 10 am-4 pm
- 12 Board Meeting, 7pm
- 14 General Member Mtg, 7:30 pm (Thurs)
- 22 - June 21 Bond for Life, Christina Richardson, curator
Christina@figaroconsulting.com
- 25 Life Drawing, 2-5 pm *long pose for painting*

June

- 4 First Thursday Del Ray, Gallery open until 9 pm
- 6 Amazing Del Ray-ce! Fundraiser with
Lee-Fendall House 2:30 - 5 pm
- 8 Life Drawing, 2-5 pm *13 short poses*
- 9 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 15 Life Drawing, 2-5 pm *long pose for painting*
- 20 Music in the Park, Mt. Vernon Rec Center Field
- 26 - July 19 All Member Show: Mixed Media Multiplied,
curators Dee Ellison and Jeanne Tiff
dbellison@verizon.net, jldtiff@cox.net

July

- 2 First Thursday Del Ray, Gallery open until 9 pm
- 14 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 27 - 31 Art Camp

August

- 6 First Thursday Del Ray
- 7 - 30 Board Member Show
- 9 General Member Summer Get Together 4 - 6:30
- 11 Board Meeting, 7 pm

September

- 3 First Thursday Del Ray, Gallery open until 9 pm
- 4 - 27 Revenge of the Sequel, David Kosar, curator
David.Kosar@verizon.net
- 8 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 19 Annual Yard Sale fundraiser
- 20 Card Making Event, 12-4 pm

October

- 2 - 25 All Member Show: Arts Build Communities
curator tba
- 3 Art on the Avenue 10 am-6 pm
- 13 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 20 General Member Meeting & Election, 7:30pm
Offbeat Auction (fall date tbd)

November

- 6 - 29 Del Ray Dozen, Rob Rudick, curator
robudick@yahoo.com
- 8 Card Making Event, 12-4 pm
- 10 Board Meeting, 7 pm

December

- 4 - 6 Holiday Market
- 8 Board Meeting, 7 pm

March - June 2010:

Minds Wide Open:
Virginia Celebrates Women in the Arts Event

Peer Critiques will be scheduled as special events.

Membership Notice: Please check your newsletter label to see if your membership has expired. Renew today.

Are you receiving our weekly email announcements and reminders of upcoming events? If not, please visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org and sign up for the e-newsletter

Thank You

Special thanks to the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and the City of Alexandria for their continued support of Del Ray Artisans, a 501(c)(3) organization

Many thanks to Royce Flowers for providing arrangements for our opening receptions and to Self Storage Plus, 2520 Oakville St., Alexandria, for their donation of storage space.

2009 Board and Key Personnel

Officers

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LindaSilk1@verizon.net

Vice President
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kfpeterson@gmail.com

Secretary
Monica Wise
moniwise@yahoo.com

Treasurer & Asst. Treasurer
Marlin Lord & Kathryn Brown
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neonkanb@aol.com

Directors
Communication Director
Paige Ireland
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Community Representative
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Curator Co-Coordinator
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Jeanne Tiff
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Fundraising Co-Directors

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Linda Elliff
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lleliff@aol.com

Historian Archivist
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Membership Director
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Outreach Co-Directors
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Gallery Assistant
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twideas@comcast.net

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Barrie Ripin, Watercolor, Charcoal, Pastel, Oil
Rusty Lynn, Drawing
L. Virginia Fernbach, Active
Leslie Elizabeth Keating, Active
Alicia M. Ensey, Active
David Bouk, Friend
Matthew Tito Cuenca, Wearable Art, Wood
Clare J. Nykolyszyn, Glass
Anita K. Epstein, Watercolor
Guy G. Jones, Watercolor, Pen and Ink, Printmaking
Katherine P. Rand, Pencil, Pen