



# The Well Crafted Word

a monthly publication of the **Del Ray Artisans...** since 1992 [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org)

## GRAND OPENING OF THE ALEXANDRIA ART MARKET...

**YOUR MONTHLY DOSE OF ART IN THE HEART OF DEL RAY**



Alexandria has its first monthly art market!

The market will be held regularly on the 1st Saturday of June, July, August, September and November from 10-4pm. Please come join us at 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.

A variety of original artwork from over 20 artists will be displayed for sale including painting, photography, pottery, jewelry, and glasswork. The Grand Opening festivities will

include music by The LoveJoy Group, dancing by The GMU Capoeira Club and yummy food by Sapore D'Italia.

For more information about the Alexandria Art Market, how to apply for an artspace at the market, about being a food vendor or musical act please contact Kimberley Bush at 703-627-7656 or email [DRA.AlexandriaArtMarket@gmail.com](mailto:DRA.AlexandriaArtMarket@gmail.com)

## ART CAMP A CALLIN'!

Calling all artistic kids and adults!

This year's Art Camp is going to be a creative filled time of fun activities, friend making and a truly ageless journey. Camp runs July 26-30, 9am-3pm.

We are in need of volunteers to get their hands dirty in helping out the youngsters. Come and create, learn a new skill, help a budding artist and fulfill your DRA volunteer requirement.

Or, if you prefer, clean out your art closet and give to art camp! We could use the following supplies to complete our creations:

- Used/expired gift and credit cards
- Aleene's Tacky Glue
- Pack of white card stock paper
- Ball point pens
- Large marbles
- 35 medium sized clear suction cups with hooks
- Pipe cleaners
- Feathers
- Reusable 'give away' tote bags ~ from grocery stores, promotions and conferences.



Please email [DRA.ArtCamp@gmail.com](mailto:DRA.ArtCamp@gmail.com) to arrange a drop off of donated materials or to schedule to volunteer.

In addition, needed are monetary donations to sponsor a camper for this wonderful experience. Any and all donations are welcome no matter what size.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

### Hamil Ma

Drawing, Painting: Watercolor, Acrylic

### Tara Graziano

### David M. Martin

Sculpture (bronzes)

### Barbara Boatman

Fiber

### Gillian Mabrey

Painting: Oil, Acrylic

### Gina Buzby

Painting: Watercolor, Oil

### Carol Fogelsong

Pastels, Colored Pencil

### Paul Bierman

Mixed Media, Decoupage, Collage

### Deborah M. Wiggins

All Media

### Patricia Greer

Jewelry

### Merry Ward

### Constance "Conni" Denning

3D Mixed Media, Ceramics, Inkwash

### Linda M. Hill

Mixed Media, Fabric

### Claudia Cappelle

Painting: Acrylic

### Nadine K. Thola

Jewelry, Metalsmithing, Painting

### Christine Regan

Painting: Oil

### The Rhoades Family

*The article below was pulled together by Kathryn A. Brown and Marlin G. Lord, DRA founding members, with the assistance of Mary Louise Clifford*

## **SOME DRA HISTORY...AND A SALUTE TO THE FOUNDERS!**

The founders of the Del Ray Artisans, many of whom met while walking their dogs and brainstormed the creation of a cooperative gallery, included Peter and Lauren Smirniotopoulos, Anne and Steve Campbell, Mary Jo Long, and Dara Schumaier (all of whom have since moved away from Alexandria). Founders still in the area include Peter Pocock, Rod Kuckro, Bob and Mart Larson, Kathryn Brown, and Marlin Lord, who are still involved in other activism in the City. The first Treasurer was Rob Reuter.

In 1992 those founders and others gathered at 2210 Mt. Vernon Avenue to consider ideas. In January we opened our doors there and by the fall of that year, Peter, who was a lawyer, had filed incorporation papers. The “umbrella” organization was titled Arts Resource Foundation (in part due to the dog reference in the acronym ARF). Del Ray Artisans was envisioned as the first of multiple entities to be housed under ARF. The artisans operated at that address as a cooperative gallery. Other ideas included working studio spaces and a school and library arts resource center, which could still be developed.

The group was able to spend three years at that first location, enough time to develop a membership and a reputation for bringing great art and new excitement to the Avenue, which was still sorely in need of positive “street traffic” and activity at the time. They used that space at below market rent, since the owner had trouble finding commercial renters, but when all that activity brought a potential renter, DRA searched a full year to find another location.

The organization stayed together during that year by securing multiple spaces—the beginnings of our “Gallery Without Walls” program—to display members’ artwork. Then they found another location—2003A Mt. Vernon Avenue (currently Artfully Chocolate), a cozy space where they had to build a wall. Even walls of the large restroom facility were used as a “Potty Gallery.” When a commercial renter came to claim that space, they moved next door, into 2003 (on the other side of

their new wall). There was no restroom at all there, and permission was secured to access the former Potty Gallery during opening receptions. Presumably Executive Lock & Key, located now in 2003, has a restroom by now!

The next move was up the Avenue to the space now occupied by the Dairy Godmother and the UPS store. Plenty of walls there, but Marlin and Kathryn and Ellyn Ferguson spent one crazy evening spray painting the bare concrete floor, even though DRA’s time there was very brief. Then, across the street to the rounded facade corner building which now houses Bean Creative. They painted that whole facility—three relatively small rooms, two of them with full wall windows. DRA always benefitted by having that “street presence” on the Avenue.

While they were there, the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center addition was being completed, and member Jane DeWeerd pointed out that the activities for Seniors, which were then held in the Colasanto Center, would be moved into the expanded space in the renovated rec center. Marlin was instrumental in arranging DRA’s use of that building, as he had been in most of the previous spaces. By October of 1997 DRA had its first exhibit on the walls of the Colasanto Center. Indeed those walls include yet another that the members built, led again by founding member Bob Larson, who built the first wall in 2003A. The new wall separates the gallery from the back of the space, which includes not one, but two restrooms, and a kitchen—a first time luxury.

In between each of these moves were many discussions about location choice, especially while DRA was struggling. There were offers from time to time that were outside of Del Ray and not on the Avenue, but the group believed that it had a commitment to this neighborhood. They had been continually instrumental in the rebuilding of the Avenue, regarding themselves as an “economic engine” because of all of the new energy they brought. DRA can be very proud of its part in making Mt. Vernon Avenue and Del Ray the enviable commercial and residential neighborhood that it is today.

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## **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Ride a New Wave as a DRA Board Member!  
Join The DRA Board Team!  
A-Hoy! DRA needs New Board Members on Board!**

The DRA Nominations Committee is looking for some new members to make art happen and keep the spirit of “Celebrating the Art of Making” happening! During the next few months the new committee of Ron Tickerhoff, Monica Wise and Karen Schmitz will be approaching members and looking for nominees. Do you know someone to nominate?

The DRA Board will have several positions opening for next year and new energy, ideas and enthusiasm is all that is needed. Note, this is great for resumes and career changing.

Are you interested in art-making decisions and having fun with the DRA Board team? If so, please let us know and we can see if we can make a perfect fit. Contact: Karen at [DRA.Nominations1@gmail.com](mailto:DRA.Nominations1@gmail.com), Monica at [DRA.Nominations2@gmail.com](mailto:DRA.Nominations2@gmail.com), or Ron at [DRA.Nominations3@gmail.com](mailto:DRA.Nominations3@gmail.com).

## **DEL RAY ARTISANS OPEN LIFE DRAWING**

I hope everyone interested in life drawing will take some time this summer to try out one of the open sessions we hold two days a month at the gallery.

Our morning sessions (11am-1pm) tend to be lively and interactive as we focus on short gesture poses. We are always open to trying new ideas. We’ve done everything from a continuous motion warm-up to a series of baseball throwing poses. If you are looking for a fun, collegial and collaborative environment where the artists and the model work together to create an invigorating drawing experience, come check us out. I am happy to report that we will be continuing these morning gesture sessions for the remainder of the year.

Our afternoon sessions (2-5pm) continue to be popular as we feature a mix of short and long poses. These sessions tend to be a quieter affair with plenty of opportunity for participants to focus on drawing the figure at a more stately pace. All sessions are drop-in so no registration is required. Come for one session or stay the whole day. Bring your supplies and join us.

June 9: 11am-1pm gesture  
2-5pm short/long pose

June 23: 11am-1pm gesture  
2-5pm short/long pose

July 14: 11am-1pm gesture  
2-5pm short/long pose

July 21: 11am-1pm gesture  
2-5pm short/long pose

August 11: 11am-1pm gesture  
2-5pm short/long pose

August 25: 11am-1pm gesture  
2-5pm short/long pose

The fees for each 3-hour session are \$8 for DRA members and \$10 for non-members. Two-hour sessions are \$6 for members and \$8 for non-members. Please visit the website for more details or is if you have any questions contact Katherine Rand at 703.836.1468 or [DRA.LifeDrawing@gmail.com](mailto:DRA.LifeDrawing@gmail.com).

**Join DRA as an Artist or Supporter**

**Renewal**

**New Member**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Initial Last

Additional Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/CorporationName \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Home (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

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:**

- Communications
- Fundraising
- Programs
- Newsletter
- Grants
- anything DRA needs.
- Website
- Facilities
- Publicity
- Gardening
- Archives
- Volunteers
- Administrative
- Outreach
- Financial
- Shows

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](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org)

**DRA'S BAG SWAP WAS THE PLACE TO BE!  
BAG SWAP WAS A FULL BAG!**

The Friday Night April 16th Bag Swap was a full house of over 60+ bag-ladies and 1 bag-man! Co-Curators Theresa Kulstad and Karen Schmitz were quite surprised at this unbelievable turnout.

Jewell Lewis-Terry was one of the quickest grabbers of a Coach bag - in 1.2 seconds! Amorett Bunn received a cat bag that matched her shirt by Laurel Burch and the only man-bagger, Randy Blackburn of Blueberry Gallery, dashed in for a brown leather diddy!

Many bag swappers came from links they received from friends and Facebook contacts. Check out the photo by DRA's Facebook curator, Fransi Kaye, and see the pure face of bag joy! More photos are available on our Facebook page.

Bag Good-ess Theresa Kulstad packed her car with bag donations and extra purses, clothes and other supplies to area organizations in need! Thanks to all for a bag job well done! Paige and Fransi – kudos - this event was amazing and baggers would like to make Bag Swap a yearly event!





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

703.838.4827  
TheDelRayArtisans.org

**GALLERY HOURS:**

Thurs: noon-4pm  
First Thursdays: noon-9pm  
Fri: noon-9pm  
Sat: 10am-9pm  
Sun: noon-6pm

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** 5th of the month  
Editor: DRA.Newsletter@gmail.com

## 2010 CALENDAR

### JUNE

- 3 First Thursday, open until 9 pm
- 4 – 27 **UNDECIDED: A DIALOGUE BETWEEN ARTIST AND VIEWER**  
(All-Member Show)  
*Betty Plummer curator*  
*plummer.betty@epa.gov*  
*with Michele Reday Cook*
- 5 Alexandria Art Market,  
Kimberley Bush,  
*DRA.AlexandriaArtMarket@gmail.com*
- 8 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 9 Life Drawing, 11am-1pm  
gestures
- 9 Life Drawing, 2pm-5pm  
short/long poses
- 13 General Member Meeting,  
time TBD
- 23 Life Drawing, 11am-1pm  
gestures
- 23 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm  
short/long poses

### JULY

- 1 First Thursday, open until 9 pm
- 2 – 18 **GLOBAL RHYTHM**  
*Matthew Tito Cuenca curator*  
*mattbewcuenca@gmail.com*
- 3 Alexandria Art Market,  
*DRA.AlexandriaArtMarket@gmail.com*
- 13 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 14 Life Drawing, 11am-1pm  
gestures
- 14 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm  
short/long poses
- 21 Life Drawing, 11am-1pm  
gestures
- 21 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm  
short/long poses
- 26 – 30 **ART CAMP**, Jen Athanas  
*DRA.ArtCamp@gmail.com*

### AUGUST

- 5 First Thursday, open until 9 pm
- 6 – 22 **GATHERING OF THE LEGENDS**  
*Nina Tisara Project Director*  
*gecko@tisaraphoto.com*
- 7 Alexandria Art Market,  
*DRA.AlexandriaArtMarket@gmail.com*
- 10 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 11 Life Drawing, 11am-1pm  
gestures
- 11 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm  
short/long poses
- 25 Life Drawing, 11am-1pm  
gestures
- 25 Life Drawing, 2-5 pm  
short/long poses

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 First Thursday, open until 9 pm
- 3 – 19 **BOARD SHOWCASE**  
*curator tbd*
- 4 Alexandria Art Market,  
*DRA.AlexandriaArtMarket@gmail.com*
- 8 Life Drawing, 11am-1pm  
gestures
- 8 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm  
short/long poses
- 14 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 22 Life Drawing, 11am-1pm  
gestures
- 22 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm  
short/long poses
- 25 Yard Sale, outside
- 26 Card Making Party, time TBD

### OCTOBER

- 1 – 24 **ONCE UPON A TIME**  
*Christina Richardson and*  
*Laura Bell curators*  
*christina@figaroconsulting.com*  
*bellineart@aol.com*
- 2 **COMMUNITY ART ON THE AVENUE**
- 6 Life Drawing, 11am-1pm  
gestures
- 6 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm  
short/long poses
- 12 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 20 Life Drawing, 11am-1pm  
gestures
- 20 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm  
short/long poses  
Annual Member Meeting &  
Elections, date and time TBD

### NOVEMBER

- 5 – 21 **BLUE: AN INTERPRETATION**  
(All-Member Show)  
*Betsy Mead curator*  
*betsymead31@starpower.net*
- 6 Alexandria Art Market,  
*DRA.AlexandriaArtMarket@gmail.com*
- 9 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 10 Life Drawing, 11am-1pm  
gestures
- 10 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm  
short/long poses
- 14 Card Making Party, time TBD
- 17 Life Drawing, 11am-1pm  
gestures
- 17 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm  
short/long poses
- 30 **WORKSHOP** Mosaic 7 – 9 pm

### DECEMBER

- 1 **WORKSHOP** Mosaic 7 – 9 pm
- 3 – 5 **HOLIDAY MARKET**  
*DRA.HolidayMarket@gmail.com*
- 8 Life Drawing, 11am-1pm  
gestures
- 8 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm  
short/long poses
- 14 Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 15 Life Drawing, 11am-1pm  
gestures
- 15 Life Drawing, 2 – 5 pm  
short/long poses

## 2010

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT**

**Linda Silk**  
*DRA.President@gmail.com*

**VICE PRESIDENT**

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**TREASURER**

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**ASST TREASURER**

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*DRA.Newsletter@gmail.com*

**SPECIAL THANKS...**

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Many thanks to Royce Flow-  
ers for providing such  
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