



# The Well Crafted Word

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

www.thedelrayartisans.org

## Art Supply Swap

**T**rade your unused art supplies! Bring them to the gallery on Tuesday, February 20 at 7:30 p.m. for DRA's annual Art Supply Swap and General Member event. Refreshments served. Volunteers needed for set-up and breakdown. Contact Jamee Telford at wrecker17@yahoo.com, 703.842.7542 or Barbara Robinson brobins123@gmail.com.

## Farewell from DRA President Susan Slattery



**D**ear DRA members & friends: It is with mixed emotions that I bid all of you "Adios" as my family and I head West for our next adventure. Having

spent more than ten years with the Del Ray Artisans, I take great pleasure in recalling all that we've accomplished and look forward to hearing about all the exciting things in store for DRA! I'm proud to have worked with so many talented, dedicated and fun people on so many projects, fundraisers, shows, website, and newsletter. It is satisfying to know how much we have grown in both membership and in organizational maturity. And, when I realize that we've now garnered not only regional, but statewide recognition for our exhibits and programs, I am immensely pleased!

I leave you in the capable and creative hands of our Board. Many hugs and kisses to all of you hard-working folks! And remember, if you're traveling through Austin, our doors are open and we'd love to see you! Best, Susan

## Southern Surge Promises Art, Programs and Entertainment for All

**M**arch brings us a **Southern Surge** of art, crafts, programs and entertainment in DRA's most ambitious outreach project in recent memory. Hancock County, Mississippi was among the many Gulf Coast communities hard hit by Hurricane Katrina in August, 2005,

and is the home of our visiting artists. Much of the work shown is inspired by the devastation and recovery experiences of these artists.

After meeting with Southern Surge committee member Leslie Wilder, General Manager Mary Ann Russell of Embassy Suites Olde Towne has generously donated a suite of rooms which will accommodate up to three visiting Hancock County artists for Surge's opening weekend and workshops. We are extremely grateful for Embassy Suites' generosity and support.

We are pleased that some of the Hancock County artists have agreed to offer workshops to our members. The opening weekend March 3-4 (10 a.m.-4 p.m.) features an all-out expressive, hands-on workshop with Lori K. Gordon, mixed media artist. Lori will share her unique collage process which combines "pour painting," monotype, and polymer clay relief.

Monday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m., painter Liz Schafer will give a free presentation titled "Visual Music." She will discuss

music appreciation touching on art history, the birth of the blues and New Orleans jazz, her Bay St. Louis environment, along with the evolution of how she came to "paint music."

On Friday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m., artist Schonda Sweeney will speak

about the Southern culture of the five cities of Hancock County,

in a free presentation called "Community and Hospitality—Southern Gulf Coast Style."

The documentary film, "The Art of the Storm" (running time 55 min.) will be shown Saturdays and Sundays, March 3 - April 1 at the gallery at 4:30 p.m.

The *Southern Surge* show opens with a reception on Friday, March 2, and closes Sunday, April 2. In addition

See **Southern Surge** on page 3



Altar • Lori K. Gordon

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Many thanks to **Royce Flowers**, our monthly sponsor, for the lovely arrangements seen at every opening.

The Del Ray Artisans, founded in 1992, is a non-profit community arts group whose mission is to foster a community of artists and art supporters who are a viable source for the development, teaching, and furtherance of appreciation of the arts through exhibits and events for members and the diverse populations in the City of Alexandria, the communities of Northern Virginia, and the greater Washington metropolitan area.

### Executive Board

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Thanks to the  
Alexandria Commission for the Arts  
for its continued support.

Please respect the copyrights of each artist.  
No use may be made of any artwork without the express,  
verifiable permission of the originating artist.

# Featured

Submitted by Karen Schmitz

## Framing Tip to Give You an Edge!

1. **Mat in neutral shades** of white, cream, gray and black. Avoid using colored mats for exhibitions.
2. **Use acid-free mats and foam core backing.** Regular mats break down over time turning the bevels and your artwork yellow. Brown cardboard and chipboard backing causes the same damage.
3. **Use acid-free tapes for hinging your artworks on paper.** No masking tape, duct tape, packaging tape or electrical tape! Tape ONLY on top. Taping art on every side causes buckling and waves, which can cause permanent damage to your artwork.
4. **Contemporary art** looks best when framed in wider mats and larger frames. Stay away from narrow mats. For example, an 8x10 work looks better in a 14x18 frame with a 3- to 4-inch mat than a 11x14 frame with a 1.5- to 2-inch mat.
5. **Neatness counts!** CLEAN glass to perfection inside and out. Mats must be spotless with no fingerprints, rips, scratches, hairs, etc. Frame corners must be neatly assembled without nicks or scratches. Finish with a hanging wire on back.

*If you have an idea for the Featured Five, please send it to the editor at DRAeditor@gmail.com.*

## Words, Art, and a Hint of Poetry

**W**ords are communication, as is art. Each evokes perception, emotion, passion, interpretation, creativity, innovation. If you want to challenge yourself and create outside your comfort zone for April's all member show, WORDS, ART & POETRY, then think words; think art; think of juxtaposing art with words; think of making art from words.

Although creating and submitting art works incorporating words is not a requirement to be part of the all member show, curators Candace Clifford and David A. Kosar enthusiastically support and encourage DRA member artists to let their imaginations waltz freely and unrestrained on this particular all member show.

In addition to this semi-annual show, DRA is also happy to be a venue for the Yockadot Poetics Theatre Festival. Yockadot will perform in the gallery on April 28.

The April show, which runs April 13-29, is open to all DRA members whose dues are current. There is no fee for sub-

missions. Works in all media will be considered. DRA members may submit up to three works for consideration and are guaranteed that at least one of their submissions will be exhibited. Depending on the number of submissions and space availability, more than one piece may be selected for inclusion.

Receiving is scheduled for Friday, April 6, from 6:30-8 p.m., and Saturday, April 7, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Works not selected must be picked up at the gallery on Sunday, April 8, from 4 - 6 p.m. Awards will be presented at the opening reception on April 13.

A copy of the Call for Entries form is included in this edition of *The Well Crafted Word* and is also available on DRA's website at [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org).

If you are interested in helping with this show or if you have questions, please contact Candace at [jcclifford@earthlink.net](mailto:jcclifford@earthlink.net) or David at 703.836.5483. Volunteer help is welcomed and appreciated.

## Join DRA as an Artist or Supporter ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Initial Last

Corporation Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ e-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Artist ☐ Media \_\_\_\_\_

Unless contributing as a Corporate entity or Friend of DRA, I understand that as a DRA Active Artist member I will contribute a minimum of 10 volunteer hours annually. These are hours non-related to the requirements of an exhibiting artist in a DRA show, as all exhibit participants are required to gallery sit or assist with other aspects of an exhibit in which they participate. Please indicate below your areas of interest:

**COMMUNICATIONS:** ☐ Mailings ☐ Newsletter ☐ Public Relations; **FACILITY:** ☐ Gallery Maintenance ☐ Gardening; **FINANCE:** ☐ Grants; **FUNDRAISING:** ☐ Solicitation ☐ Special Events; **GALLERY:** ☐ Curating/Co-curating ☐ Hanging Shows; **HISTORIAN/ARCHIVIST:** ☐ Photograph Albums/Scrapbooks; **MEMBERSHIP:** ☐ Data Input ☐ Sponsor/Corporate Solicitation; **OUTREACH:** ☐ Community Events/Activities; **PROGRAMS:** ☐ Art Camp ☐ Class Instructor ☐ Member Events; **VOLUNTEER:** ☐ Telephoning; ☐ JUST ABOUT ANYTHING

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Dues: ☐ \$500 Gold Corporate; ☐ \$250 Silver Corporate; ☐ \$35 Friend of DRA; ☐ \$35 Active Artist; ☐ \$50 Household; ☐ \$10 Student/Senior/Disabled

Dues payable to DEL RAY ARTISANS and mail with this form to:  
Del Ray Artisans, Attn. Membership, 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301

## Southern Surge *continued from page 1*

to our regular Saturday and Sunday hours, the DRA Gallery will be open Friday evenings, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Along with the fine art exhibit, craft artists will be selling smaller items in our "Mississippi Market" area of the gallery.

### For more information...

#### **Southern Surge organizers:**

LINDA ELLIFF

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THERESA KULSTAD

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#### **For event information:**

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#### **To gallery sit:**

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Jazz 13 • Liz Schafer

Please check the website where we will publish the details of all the *Southern Surge* workshops and events as they evolve: [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org).

## MEMBERSHIP

Our Membership committee is getting back into tip-top condition, and renewal letters have been sent out for our two recently past Expiration Dates of 12/30/06 and 6/30/06. As we look forward and review our membership benefits, and try to add new ones, we want to thank those of you who have already responded! We also want to acknowledge those of you who sent in renewals without even being reminded and received notices anyway due to the timing... sorry! We will happily research and respond to any remaining inquiries and are pleased to have your continued support and interest!

## Volunteer Opportunities

**S**outhern Surge Show: volunteers needed for reception help on March 2 (bartenders, greeters, kitchen and clean-up), gallery sitting March 3 through April 1, and hosting visiting artists overnight March 2, 3, and 4; please contact Theresa Kulstad at [tkulstad@verizon.net](mailto:tkulstad@verizon.net) or Linda Elliff at [LLEliff@aol.com](mailto:LLEliff@aol.com).

## Peer Critique

**D**o you ever wish you had a group of friends with whom you are comfortable asking for honest and constructive feedback about your artwork? Well you do—The Del Ray Artisans!

Join us Sunday, March 4th from 5:50–7:30 p.m. in the DRA gallery. Bring a couple pieces, complete or in progress, that you'd like to discuss and receive constructive criticism from your peers. The facilitator will keep things moving and ensure all feedback is constructive. For more information, please contact Michele Reday Cook at [mredaycook@mac.com](mailto:mredaycook@mac.com) or 703.548.2273, or Daniel Wise at [danlwise@verizon.net](mailto:danlwise@verizon.net).



**The Del Ray Artisans**  
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Alexandria, VA 22301

703.838.4827  
www.TheDelRayArtisans.org

### Gallery Hours

Saturday: noon - 4 p.m. • Sunday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The gallery is open during all events and performances.

Contributors this month include: Barbara Boehm, Kathryn Brown, Candace Clifford, Linda Elliff, David Kosar, Theresa Kulstad, Karen Schmitz, Susan Slattery, Jamee Telford, Joan Ulrich and Daniel Wise.

**Submission Deadline:** 5th of the month  
preceding publication (3/5/07 for the April issue).

Editor, Daniel Wise: DRAeditor@gmail.com

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

2-18		<i>House of Cards II</i> exhibit
13	7 p.m.	DRA Board Meeting
20	7:30 p.m.	DRA General Meeting & Artist Swap Meet
21	7-10 p.m.	Life Drawing

### MARCH

2-April 1		<i>Southern Surge</i>
3-4	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	Collage workshop with Lori K. Gordon
4	5:30-8 p.m.	Peer Critique
5	7 p.m.	"Visual Music" — Free talk by <i>Southern Surge</i> artist, Liz Schafer
12	7 p.m.	Del Ray Citizens Association <i>Meet 'n Greet</i>
13	7 p.m.	DRA Board Meeting

### MARCH continued

14	7-10 p.m.	Life Drawing
16	7 p.m.	"Community & Hospitality..." — Free talk by Hancock County artist, Schonda Sweeney
28	7-10 p.m.	Life Drawing

### APRIL

6	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Receiving for <i>Words</i> (All Member Show)
7	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Receiving for <i>Words</i> (All Member Show)
10	7 p.m.	DRA Board Meeting
13-29		<b>WORDS, ART &amp; POETRY</b> (All Member Show)
18-Sept. 14		<i>Art in City Hall III</i> (Juried exhibition held in Alexandria City Hall)
28		<i>Yockadot Poetry Theatre</i> performances

## Join Us February 16 for a Special DRA Send-off as We Bid Susan a Fond Farewell!

The Del Ray Artisans gallery will host a farewell in honor of DRA president, Susan Slattery on Friday, February 16 from 7 to 10 p.m. This is our opportunity, before she hits the happy trail to Texas, to say thank you for the many years of dedication and hard work that she has given to the Del Ray Artisans. Please join us.

## In Memoriam: Donald D. Robinson

Well known Del Ray artist and DRA member Barbara Chiminello lost her beloved husband, Donald Robinson, on January 20, after a brief illness. Donations in his name may be made to: Welch High School Class of 1956, Mountain View High School, PO Box 609, Toms Mountain, Rt. 52 North, Welch, WV 24801, or to your favorite charity.