

THE WELL-CRAFTED WORD

news from the del ray artisans cooperative

november 1992

Neighborhood Highlights Show

Congratulations to **Kathryn Brown, Rob Reuter and Bob Larson** for the great job they did discovering the artists and putting together the Neighborhood Highlights show. Special thanks to **Leslie Perkins** for the fine job she did on the programs. What a neighborhood! Artistic, Diverse, Creative. Guess that's why we opened this Center in the First Place!

Many thanks to **Eve Lamois, Patsieann Misiti, Christina Penn, Lauren Smirniotopoulos, Rob Reuter, Dara Schumaier and Jill Vantine** for their help with the refreshments! The fall flowers came from **Terry's Atkin's** garden. Thanks.

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Off-Beat Auction Set for December 6th

Ann Campbell is masterminding our first major fundraiser, the Off-Beat Auction. It will be held on Sunday evening, December 6, at the Commonwealth Court, 1101 King Street, from 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. The cost will be \$10 at the door. Entertainment will be provided by the Irish Breakfast Band thanks to member **Karen Helbrecht**. **Jim Dunning** will serve as our auctioneer/color commentator. Guests will have an opportunity to bid on both Live Auction furniture and Silent Auction items.

We are currently soliciting items for the Silent Auction. **Lauren Smirniotopolous** has agreed to serve as "command central" for donated items. Items are coming in steadily. Samples: One Meditation Lesson, Two Signed Prints, A Dinner for Eight, A Lesson in Monoprint, A Lesson in Computer Graphics. What can you donate? If you solicit goods or services from a friend, artist or other source, call Lauren at 548-9530 to get it recorded. If you'd like to work on Certificates/Display Boards for the Silent Auction, call **Kathryn Brown** at 549-5227.

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us. It's a unique way to celebrate the season and shop for holiday giving in a party setting.

Furniture Renaissance Update

December 6th may seem a long way off to most of us, but not so, to the Del Ray Artisans who are busy finishing furniture for the Off-Beat Auction. To date, 20 pieces of furniture are in various stages of completion, but our goal is to have 50 items beautified and ready for sale by the deadline. The only curse (and blessing) is that the Neighborhood Highlights exhibit is now occupying the Center.

See Auction Page 2 Column 1

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, November 5, 1992-7:30
Del Ray Artisans Center
2210 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria
703-684-6549



Auction From Page 1

We have arranged for workspace at the Monroe Street YMCA and will be having several Tuesday evening work sessions that will run from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Come for the whole evening, or just stay for an hour.

Another approach is for each of us to adopt a piece of furniture and work on it at home. Call **Ann Campbell** (683-5246) to claim a piece of furniture for your own, or donate something that is ready to go. The more good-looking pieces we have to auction, the

Kudos

Many thanks to **Ron Blank, Walter Hock, Becky Heavner, Brian Leister, Peter Smirniotopoulos, Karen Helbrecht, Ann and Steve Campbell, Patsieann Misiti, Nick Bayus, Rob Reuter, Ellyn Ferguson, Mary Jo Long, Larry Merola, Nancee Roberts, Jill Vantine** and the students from the Faux Finishing Classes for their craftsmanship in transforming these pieces into objects d'art!

Faux Finishing Classes Big Success!

Ann Campbell reports that both sessions of our Faux Finishing Class received rave reviews from participants. Sarah Pearson generously donated her time and expertise to teach a variety of finishing techniques during two Saturdays in October. Many thanks to Sarah and to her talented students for producing a wonderful array of painted furniture. These unique pieces will be available for sale at the Off-Beat Auction. Preview week will be Wednesday December 2, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 5 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Come in to the Center and view the craftsmanship up close and personal.

**For The Record.....Center Hours Are:
Wednesday Evenings 6 - 9 p.m.,
Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and
Sundays from 12 noon - 4 p.m.**

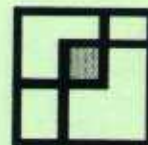
Art News Around Town

SUGARLOAF 18TH ANNUAL AUTUMN CRAFTS FESTIVAL-Montgomery County Fairgrounds November 19-23.

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT vs MIDDLEBROW AMERICA- Lecture and Book Signing with Meryle Secret Monday, December 7, 8 p.m. Smithsonian Members \$8, Non-Members \$11. Call the Smithsonian for more information (202) 357-3030.

GEORGE NAKASHIMA EXHIBITION AND SALE-Furniture showing at Full Circle, 317 Cameron Street, Alexandria, through November 14. 683-4500

"ARMEN'S WORLD"-Paintings and drawings by Armenian architect and artist Armen Kankanian, through November 11, Von Braehler Gallery, 2216 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. 683-7474



Financial Outlook

Rob Reuter, our financial chairman, reports that we only have enough money to keep the Center open through January. We need a cushion of three or four months of expenses, in order to insure the life of the Cooperative. The Off-Beat Auction will be our major fundraiser for the year. Plan now to be involved. Work on a piece of furniture or donate one. Fifty pieces sold for at least \$100, will provide real security for the Cooperative. Just look at what we've accomplished at the Center on a shoestring. Imagine what we can do with some financial bedrock!

We Want You!

The Cooperative is in the process of applying for outside grants, but even if we receive funds, they will not become available to us until spring. Funds from membership will provide our life blood until then. To meet our financial requirements we will need 50 new members by the end of the year. We know there are many people who are regular reception attendees and Center visitors who are not yet members. This is an appeal to all of you who support our cause, to become members. We know you're out there. Don't delay. Fill out the Membership Form and mail it to the Center with your check. If we can pay the bills until spring, our future will be promising. It's up to you to keep us alive.

Speaking of Members..

Thanks to **Terry Atkin**, we are all neatly organized...at least on paper! Our beautiful new membership list is computerized and available at the Center if you haven't received yours already by mail. Terry deserves a real pat on the back for generating mailing labels, too.

Corrections to the Membership List:

Change - Janice Boudreau's home phone to (703) 941-7118

Jill Shepherd (formerly Quinney) work number is (301) 258-3124

Joe Maloney to "Joel"

Have any more changes or additions? Call Terry at 836-0264.

Mo' Money, Mo' Money...

On the fund raising front, we are preparing the Center's first proposal for funding from the Alexandria Commission on the Arts. We are applying for a grant under the "New and Emerging Arts Organization" section and are eligible to receive a grant for up to 25% of our previous year's income. The deadline for the application is November 20. Anyone with experience in applying for grants or in helping speed the process along, should contact **Susan VanGilder** at 548-3577.

Membership Form

Name _____

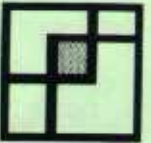
Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Membership Type Student/\$25 Individual/\$35
 Household/\$50 Corporate/\$100

I'm interested in: Offbeat Auction! Classes/Lectures
 Exhibitions/Programs Events

Please make check payable to Del Ray Artisans Center and send to 2210 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301
 Attn: Terry Atkin, Membership Director.



Join the Curating Committee.....

"We've Got the Look"

(Or At Least We'll Figure Out What It Should Be).

Our goal is to establish standards and procedures for curating upcoming exhibits. Hey! this is important stuff! Help us explore answers to these questions:

- How much time is needed to put a show together?
- What are effective ways to display work in our current space?
- Should we have our own pedestals, screens, etc.?
- What graphics, signage should be used?
- What and how much information do we need on each exhibitor?
- How do we interact with other committees?

Our first meeting will be Monday, November 9, from 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. at the Center. Your ideas, enthusiasm and curiosity are needed. Experience in this area is welcomed, absolutely, but not required. To date our committee consists of: **Ellen Johnson, Nick Bayus, Randi Korn** and **Bob Larson**. Please call **Patsleann Misiti** (703)549-1094 if you'd like to participate.

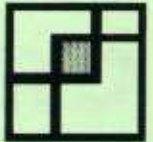
Creating Opportunities for Artisans

Though barely six months old, DEL RAY ARTISANS COOPERATIVE is already serving as a magnet for high-profile projects for artisans within the City of Alexandria. In July, the Cooperative responded to a request from the Ramsey House and provided valuable input on the fabrication of the winning design in the annual competition for the Old Town Christmas ornament. Later in the summer, Cooperative member **Ron Blank** played a key role in salvaging, for future use by the Cooperative and other organizations, several sections of an enormous branch which fell from the City's Bicentennial Tree during a storm (with a lot of help from West End civic activist **Ben Brenmann**). More recently, inspired in part by the Cooperative's JUST FAUX FUN exhibition, commercial painter and Del Ray resident **David Arnold** proposed that the the Cooperative develop a plan for making more attractive those hideous bridge abutments at Route 1 and East Custis Avenue.

The Cooperative has been presented with an opportunity to promote the creative talents of an individual member through the Alexandria Commission on the Status of Women. This spring, the Commission will present its 12th Annual Woman to Woman Awards, honoring outstanding achievements and contributions of women within the City of Alexandria. Rather than present each honoree with a plaque, Commission member **Tara Hardiman**, a Mt. Jefferson resident, has sought the Cooperative's support and assistance in identifying an artisan who would like to design and create a more symbolic memento for the awards ceremony.

Not unlike the Cooperative itself, the commission on the Status of Women has very limited funds and, consequently, will likely be able to absorb only the costs of materials; the artisan's time will have to be donated. However, this is an unprecedented opportunity for an enterprising artisan to benefit from the positive PR and notoriety which likely will flow from participating in this worthwhile endeavor.

The Cooperative intends to expand its role in the future to serve as a focal point for commissions and referrals for Cooperative members. Artisans interested in pursuing these opportunities should contact **Peter Smirniotopoulos** at 202-775-0999 (office) or 703-548-9530.



Scheduling for the Center

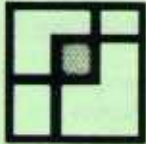
When you visit the Center during the Neighborhood Highlights show, you will notice some new faces staffing the Center. For the first time, we have asked show exhibitors to volunteer to staff the Center. Their response has been enthusiastic. Stop in and get to know more about the artists and their work.

Despite this extra staffing help, we still have some shifts open through the end of the year. If you have two hours to volunteer, please call **Susan VanGilder** at 548-3577.

November, 1992						
SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 12-4 pm Neighborhood Highlights A. Musto S. Macklin	2	3 Election Day	4 6-9 pm Neighborhood Highlights A. Scarlis S. Macklin	5 7:30 pm General Meeting	6	7 10-4 pm Neighborhood H. S. Campbell L. Perkins M. J. Long
8 12-4 pm N. H. Bob Larson John Curran	9 6-7:15 pm Curating Committee Meeting	10 7-10 pm Furniture Workshop at Monroe Street YMCA	11 6-9 pm N.H. S. Campbell D. Piasecki	12	13	14 10-4 pm N.H. E. Johnson W. Hock
15 12-4 pm N.H. N. LaValle J. Curran	16	17 7-10 pm Furniture Workshop at Monroe Street YMCA	18 6-9 pm N.H. E. LaMois D. Piasecki	19 7:30 pm Executive Board Meeting	20	21 10-4 pm N.H. D. Talmage G. Spring M. Lyons
22 12-4 pm N.H. B. Leister J. Curran	23	24 7-10 pm Furniture Workshop at YMCA	25 6-9 pm N.H. S. Campbell A. Scarlis	26	27	28 10-4 pm N.H. D. Talmage M. Lord W. Hock
29 12-4 pm N.H. B. Heavner D. Talmage	30	1 Furniture Workshop at YMCA Dec.	2 6-9 pm Auction Preview (Need Staff)	3	4	5 10-4 pm Auction Preview (Need Staff)
6 6-10 pm Off-Beat Auction 1101 King St.	7	8	9	10	11	12



Del Ray Artisans Cooperative



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Alexandria, Virginia 22301
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