



THE Well-Crafted Word

news from del ray artisans' center

fall 1994

DEL RAY ARTISANS' CENTER RECEIVES ALEX AWARD

We are delighted to announce that DEL RAY ARTISANS' CENTER has been given the Alex Award in the Best Arts Organization category, for developing a community arts center, and for its contributions to the Del Ray community. The purpose of the award is to give special recognition to the commitment and activities of individuals and organizations in business and the arts in the City of Alexandria. Mayor Patricia Ticer presented the award in City Council chambers Tuesday, October 25th. It's great to be appreciated!

UPCOMING EVENTS

**2nd Annual Halloween Party,
Saturday, October 29th, 7:30 p.m. til
Midnight.**

**Pastiche Art Show and Sale, Saturday,
November 5th, 3:30 p.m. til 6:30
p.m. 2908 Argyle Drive, Alexandria,
Virginia.**

**Opening Reception - The Furniture
Show, Friday, November 4th, 7:30
p.m. til 10:30 p.m.**

**The Furniture Show, November 3rd
through December 4th.**

SEARCH FOR NEW HOME UNDERWAY AGAIN

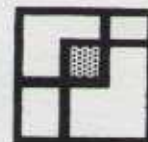
Change is in the wind as we complete our 1994 exhibitions calendar. As this issue goes to print Northern Virginia CORE - Collaborative Operations & Resource Environment, will begin co-locating in our building here at 2210 Mt. Vernon Avenue. They are a group of non-profit community service organizations including The Alexandria Volunteer Bureau, The Network Preschool, The Empowerment Network, Carpenter's Shelter Lodging, Inc., and HO HO HO, among others.

Through the thoughtfulness and generosity of our landlord, Rodger Digilio and Diane Charles and John Mennel, co-founders of NoVa CORE, DEL RAY ARTISANS' CENTER will be allowed to stay in its present location through the completion of The Furniture Show, December 4th.

Our Executive Director, **Peter Smirniotopoulos**, is aggressively pursuing several alternative locations in the area, and on Mt. Vernon Avenue. However the final decision will likely be made based upon a variety of factors, including economic incentives and concessions on asking rent; the financial stability of the new landlord and track record of maintenance and landlord/tenant relations; the accessibility and public visibility of the location; and, of course, the safety of our members and guests. The holiday issue of THE WELL-CRAFTED WORD, which is expected out before Thanksgiving will address this important issue in greater detail.

TIME TO RE-CLAIM FURNITURE & SUPPLIES

It's clean up time at The Center as we prepare to welcome our new neighbors. Items that have been left upstairs from past events: faux finishing classes, exhibits, the auction, etc. will be hauled downstairs within the next few days. Friday, October 28 between 5 - 8 p.m. The Center will be open for you to re-claim your long-lost items. Call Peter at 548-9530, if you need to arrange a Saturday pick up time. These items will be disposed of Saturday afternoon. If you are interested in salvaging unclaimed items, come and take your pick.



CALLING ALL PUMPKIN CARVERS

The Center will be hosting its inaugural PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION on Friday and Saturday, October 28th and 29th. Participants are asked to purchase, carve and donate to The Center as many pumpkins as they care to enter. All entries should be delivered to The Center between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m., Friday, October 28th, with candles in place, so that they can be displayed Friday and Saturday nights. Judging and Silent Bidding on the entries will take place during the course of the party, with the winners of both the auction and competition announced later that night. Please help The Center raise additional funds and get your creative juices flowing by creating and donating as many pumpkins as you can!

PASTICHE ART SHOW AND SALE

In a departure from traditional exhibit venue, DEL RAY ARTISANS' CENTER is staging a show in the dramatic residence of an artist/architect. The show will take place at 2908 Argyle Drive, Alexandria, on Saturday, November 5th from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. The exhibit will feature the works of ARTS RESOURCE FOUNDATION members **Carolyn Armbrustmacher, Steve Crossett, Elizabeth Fertig, Marty Hughes, Hermineh Miller and Helen Ottaway.** A wide range of media will be on display which include bookbinding, calligraphy, jewelry, painting, water color, steel sculpture and ceramics.

The site of the Pastiche show, a classic contemporary located in the picturesque Monticello Heights area of Alexandria, is owned by Carlos Leguia and his wife Gladys Courand. The owners, will also be displaying paintings, drawings, faux finishes and furniture at Pastiche. For more information call (703) 518-0625.

SUMMER PROJECTS SUCCESSFUL

The Center has been humming this summer thanks to the creative energies of our members. First, **Patsleann Misiti** and **Tara Hardiman** curated an innovative exhibit "Picture What Women Do" in collaboration with the Alexandria Office on Women. Over Labor Day **Helen Ottaway, Caole Lowery** and **Ruby DeGroot** put on a beautiful show that brought in scores of new visitors to our Center. Helen recommends the concept of short shows by individual members and reports that sales were good.

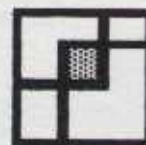
100 YEARS OF COMMUNITY

Congratulations to Co-Chairs **Martha Larson** and **Christina Penn**, and to Coordinator, **Ellyn Ferguson**, for their herculean efforts, and those of dozens of artists, artisans, members, and Del Ray residents, for the phenomenally successful 100 YEARS OF COMMUNITY: A Celebration of Del Ray's Centennial! **Mart** and **Chris** worked throughout the summer preparing for this important community event, motivating and guiding a cadre of enthusiastic volunteers and artists, as well as working on substantive aspects of the exhibition.

Original art work, created especially for this important exhibition, was provided by members **Steve Crossett, Susan Leach Hansen, Ellen Johnson**, and **Bryan Leister**. The exhibition installation team, spearheaded by **Bob Larson**, included **Ron & Linda Blank, Charlotte Corcoran, Becky Heavner** and **Helen Ottaway**. This team created many custom touches, giving the exhibition a truly professional look, and making it more accessible. Also, special thanks are in order for the photographers - **Martha Bodden** ("Then and Now Photos"); **Roslin Arrington** ("Faces of Mount Vernon Avenue" photo collage); and **Charlotte Corcoran** ("Don't Forget to Look Up" architectural treasure hunt for children and adults) - who fanned out through the community to provide the photographic documentation of how our community has evolved. Thanks also to **Lauren Smirniotopoulos**, who worked with Charlotte to make sure that every student at Mount Vernon Community School received a copy of Charlotte's "Don't Forget to Look Up" game.

Del Ray residents **Patrick Bodden, Herbert Dixon, Nellie Innamorato, Marlin Lord, Lucille Michel, Howard Olmsted, Dorothy Richardson, Jo Siegal** and **Bernie Tallman** generously provided their time, recollections, photographs, and other memorabilia that gave the exhibition its heart and soul. Finally, many thanks to **Robin Alcott** and **Jennifer Courtner** of the Centennial Celebration Committee, for the wonderful video they produced, which was aired throughout the run of the exhibition, thanks to the Del Ray RENT-A-CENTER, which loaned a TV and VCR to the Center.

The opening reception for the Centennial exhibit, which was the kick-off event for the entire Centennial Celebration, attracted a record crowd to The Center,



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thanks to the efforts and culinary talents of **David Amundson & Nan Laurence, Linda & Ron Blank, Janice Boudreau, Steve Crossett & Rita Longhoffer, Ellyn Ferguson, Becky Heavner, Eve LaMois, Mary Jo Long, Helen Ottaway and Patsieann Misiti.**

The promotion and graphic design work for the exhibition could not have been more comprehensive or visually stimulating. Exhibition graphics designed and produced by **Leslie Perkins** from post card, to program, to door poster were superlative, as usual. Thanks also to **Chris Penn, Patsieann Misiti** and **Linda Blank** for developing the text for the program. Finally, **David Nicholson**, our Public Relations Director, deserves much of the credit for our record attendance during the run of the exhibition, as does **Gayle Reuter**, Chair of the Centennial Celebration and 'on the Avenue' Block Party.

TEE SHIRT SALES TEAM FORMING

The commemorative "Del Ray is a state of mind" tee shirts designed by **Becky Heavner** have been a tremendous success. We are almost through our second gross of shirts, raising almost \$1000 in net profits. However, thus far only a small cadre of dedicated members has stepped forward to help in selling the shirts. **Peter Smirniotopoulos**, who has handled the production, promotion and sales of these collectible tees, is looking to establish a TEE SHIRT SALES FORCE of marketeers willing to devote a few hours each week to helping sell the tees at various locations and events around the city, including the Del Ray Farmer's Market. If you have the knack for direct marketing (it doesn't get any more direct than this) and you are interested in contributing your time and talents for a very worthwhile and effective fund raising activity, please call Peter at 703-548-9530.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S POSITION UNDER CONSIDERATION

As a means of better allocating responsibilities for the management and operation of The Center, the Executive Board will be taking up the creation of an Assistant Director's position on the Board. The Assistant Director would work directly with the Executive Director and also report independently to the Board. The Assistant Director's duties could include management, maintenance, and staffing of The Center, scheduling of all uses and functions, and acting as an alternate spokesperson for the Executive Director. To better inform the Executive Board in its deliberations over the proposed creation of this position, any person having an interest in assuming these responsibilities should contact **Peter Smirniotopoulos** at 703-548-9530.

COMING SOON: THE FURNITURE SHOW!

The second annual DEL RAY ARTISANS' CENTER Furniture Show will feature ten of the region's most talented furniture artists November 3rd through December 4th. Works on exhibit will range from the animistic furniture and tendril-like lighting fixtures of Baltimore sculptor Donna Reinsel, to the bold, geometric works in wood, steel, and glass of Alexandria architect Robin Youngelman. Many of the pieces were created just for this show.

In addition to returning furniture artists **Jeff Dahlquist, Stephen LaDrew, Carl Tese**, and **F.L. Wall**, the show will also feature **Jonathan Benson, Michael Lynch, Tom Osgood** and **Margo Scavone**. The show will include lighting fixtures and clocks as well as furniture.

The studio furniture movement is alive and well in the design-deprived Nation's Capital so don't miss this rare gathering of beautiful work.

EXECUTIVE BOARD UPDATE

We are pleased to welcome **Dara Schumaier** back to the Executive Board. As many of you remember, Dara served as one of our first Center Managers. Currently she is assuming responsibility for membership and caring for mailing list data bases. In other changes, **Susan Van Gilder** plans to leave her post as Financial Director, pending a December birth of her first child. (We'll keep you posted on developments at the Van Gilder/Maloney household.) Susan's meticulous work earned ARTS RESOURCE FOUNDATION a grant from the Virginia Commission on the Arts. Many thanks, Susan, for all your hard work.

DEL RAY ARTISANS' CENTER CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

1994

25 -29 OCT	HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES
03 NOV- 04 DEC	EXHIBITION: The Furniture Show
04 NOV	OPENING RECEPTION: The Furniture Show 7:30 - 10 PM
08 DEC - 18 DEC	Holiday Craft Show and Sale To Benefit ARTS RESOURCE FOUNDATION (Location to be Announced)
09 DEC	OPENING RECEPTION AND HOLIDAY PARTY 7:30 - 10:30 Holiday Craft Show and Sale



Del Ray Artisans' Center
2210 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22301
703-684-6549

ARTS RESOURCE FOUNDATION is a 501(c)(3) public membership organization formed to create and support community based arts organizations and promote the arts as a resource for community development. DEL RAY ARTISANS' CENTER is a community arts space featuring two and three dimensional works of decorative and functional art and fine crafts through exhibitions, lectures, and instructional classes. DEL RAY ARTISANS' CENTER is funded, managed and operated by ARTS RESOURCE FOUNDATION.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Kathryn Brown, Selection Committee Chair, (703) 549-5227

Randi Korn, Director, (703) 548-4078

Martha Larson, Communications Director, (703) 836-0413

Patsieann Misiti, Curating Committee Chair, (703) 549-1094

David Nicholson, Public Relations Director (703) 683-7405

Christina Penn, Director (703) 519-7253

Les Perkins, Marketing & Graphics Director (703) 836-7731

Dara Schumaier, Membership Director (703) 836-7731

Lauren Smirniotopoulos, Children's Programming Director (703) 548-9530

Peter Smirniotopoulos, Executive Director, (703) 548-9530

Susan Van Gilder, Outgoing Fundraising Director (703) 548-3577

Board Position Opportunities: Finance Director/Corporate Treasurer/ Assistant Director/Director of Foundation Grants/Director of Corporate Development