



THE Well-Crafted Word

news from the del ray artisans

august 1996

"AN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE" EXHIBITION RECEPTION A SUCCESS

The Opening Reception for the Inez Johnson show was a gala event which saw a large gathering of people from all across Alexandria. Congratulations to **Marlin Lord** who curated the show and his committee: **Les Perkins** (graphic design), **Dara Schumaier** (mailing labels) **Kathryn Brown**, **Sue Dick**, **Joan Gaskins**, **Tara Hardiman**, **Walter Hock**, **Helen Judy**, **Mart Larson**, **Rita Longhofer**, **Anne Martone**, **Pat Miller**, **Patsieann Misiti**, **Helen Ottaway**, **Gayle Reuter**, **Brenda Smith** and others who donated food for the reception.

Marlin sends a special thanks to those members who gave of their time to set the show: **Ron Blank**, **Kathryn Brown**, **Charlotte Corcoran**, **Sue Dick**, **Ellyn Ferguson**, **Becky Heavner**, **Michael McGoffin**, **Dave Nicholson**, **Helen Ottaway** and **Susan Slattery**.

The exhibit features paintings and silhouettes. Much of the work has a native American/Southwestern flavor. The exhibit will be open Saturdays through August 3rd.

Bring your postmarked reception invitation to the Center by noon August 3rd and drop it in the drawing box. You could win a gift certificate from an Avenue business if the postmark hits the bull's eye design on the postcard.

SUMMER MEETING SET/CURATORS SOUGHT..

The next gathering of the Del Ray Artisans will be Tuesday July 23rd at 7:00 PM at the Center, 2003 A Mt. Vernon Avenue. Come with ideas for coming exhibits and your creativity in tact. All ideas welcome and appreciated. If you'd like to curate an exhibit come to this meeting and explain your concept.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP

The reason for this letter is two-fold. One, it is time for membership renewals and your action in paying your dues will be appreciated and will eliminate nagging, annoying pleas later!

The second reason for this letter is of a larger scale. We recently lost a member due to our own actions. I will not name the individual but will quote parts of the letter that was received. The issue was that the member felt pressed having received five to six calls in one week asking for their services and time. "I received calls from members asking me to help, most of the time at the very last minute or to do things I never showed any interest in (Farmers Market...) and I really started feeling harassed!"

Dear reader, we are a cooperative organization, staffed fully through the generous donation of that most precious commodity of all, time. During the past eighteen months a very small, but extremely hardworking group of individuals have made tremendous accomplishments for the Del Ray Artisans. Not one individual has personally benefited, but the efforts put forward have been for the GROUP. As a cooperative, we need many voices to help with the various duties that of unfortunate necessity must be handled to keep your organization viable. To constantly rely on the kind-heartedness, devotion to the cause and willingness to sacrifice precious personal time of just a few members is not fair. It causes questions to be asked about the level of commitment to the cooperative of other members and it plainly demands attention.

continued on p.2

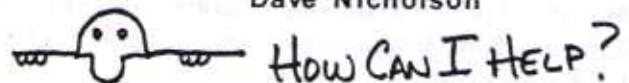


We are not a gallery organization that takes a "cut" when you sell your work through our exhibits. Dues are purposely kept low to encourage the largest number of people possible to join and share in our community. We are not an organization that has a paid staff to oversee day-to-day operations and issues. We must deal with fund-raising, program planning, art placement, a newsletter, membership advantages (such as the Visual Systems and Pearl discounts), group shows, wider community recognition and a larger role in the Alexandria arts community.

Who and what are we then? We view ourselves not as "artistes", but rather as individuals who create, explore and try to enhance our world and neighborhood; through art, words and deeds. To be a Del Ray Artisan one needs to accept a responsibility to give something back to the group. The group only can prosper as each individual member keeps this responsibility in mind. You might argue

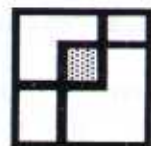
that we are trying to do too much. I argue that we are not doing enough because we do not have the active volunteer support of a larger percentage of the membership. Each member should be proud to be a Del Ray Artisan, we are a valued part of the arts in Alexandria and Virginia. Our location in Del Ray makes each member a special person to this community. And with this sense of pride every member should think not of the time that is asked of them, but of the recognition brought to the Del Ray Artisans (and each of you) as a result of the time you give. A small share of the burden for many makes the burden lighter for all.

Dave Nicholson



VOLUNTEER TO SELL OUR NEW T-SHIRT AT THE MARKET.
CALL CHARLOTTE AT 548-1521 OR LEAVE A MESSAGE AT 684-6549.

**Become a Member
Join Del Ray Artisans Now!**



Name: _____

Street: _____

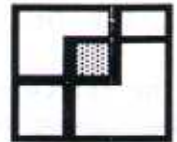
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

I am interested in volunteering. Yes No

Membership Categories: Student - \$25 Individual - \$35 Household - \$50
Corporate - \$100

Please make check payable to Del Ray Artisans and mail it to 2210 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301, attn: Membership



CALL FOR ENTRIES

Young At Art Exhibition, deadline for entries, July 22nd. Call 703-212-7910.

Fairfax Art League's First Juried Show, pre-register by September 16th at reduced cost or by October 1st at the door. Call 703-323-8724.

Arlington Art Center, Solo Shows, deadline Aug. 24th. Call 703-524-1494.

Arlington Showcase, for artists who live, work or have studios in Arlington County, deadline for entries Augst 1st. Call 703-358-7710.

Ellipse Arts Center, Photo96. Show runs from Nov. 19th-Dec.21st. Open to all regional amateur and professional photographers. Call 703-358-7710.

Arlington Arts Center, Juried Painting Exhibition, deadline for entries, Oct. 13th. Call 703-524-1494.

Lancaster Museum of Art, Creating Women. Female artists who create images of themselves or other women, all media. Deadline Aug. 16th. Call 717-394-3497.

Art on the Avenue, October 5th, display artwork for sale. Contact Pat Miller 703-683-2570.

Side By Side, art by a Del Ray Artisan alongside the work of their child or young friend. Date to be announced. Contact **Alice Cannon** 703-683-3252.

Beyond the Comfort Zone, artwork done by Del Ray Artisans outside their normal media. Date to be announced. Contact **Susan Slattery** 703-922-7290.

GRANT AWARDED

For the second consecutive year the Del Ray Artisans have been the recipients of a Virginia Commission for the Arts grant. Our mission of community-based arts places the Del Ray Artisans in a unique position both at the local level as well as the state level. Award letters from both the Alexandria Commission for the Arts and the Virginia Commission for the Arts are available at the Center for your review. You should be proud of your organization, its mission and your participation. Possibly at no time in the past have we been so poised to leap forward and expand our program offerings reach and impact.

VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED

The Avenue Partnership recently recognized the year-long efforts of a number of its volunteers. The Del Ray Artisans who have benefited from the overall efforts of the group in promoting the Avenue and the Del Ray neighborhood in general, were asked to make a donation of artwork that could be used to reward these special volunteers.

The Artisan Board debated vigorously why, how and what would be appropriate. It was decided that **Dave Nicholson** would create a series of his award winning Polaroid SX-70 manipulated prints to be used as the gift. **Dave** donated his time and creativity to photograph Del Ray street scenes, print laser enlargements, mat, frame and wrap the works for presentation. The Del Ray Artisans covered the out-of-pocket expenses for film, enlarging and the cost of the frames.

Independent reports following the presentation unanimously brought raves about the generosity of the Del Ray Artisans and the works donated. Thanks, **Dave**.

SPACE THE UNKNOWN FRONTIER

The "For Lease" sign still is in the window at the gallery but some behind the scenes activities have been taking place. Tentatively, about 85% certain, the space will be leased by a new tenant who will need access beginning mid-August. Two issues for the Del Ray Artisans: one, where do we go and two, what do we do with our "stuff" until we have an acceptable space? It seems promising that we will be able to line up window displays, again the Gallery Without Walls concept in action along the Avenue.

Two, until we locate another "angel" we may need to store our files, computer, pedestals, etc. somewhere until we alight in a new space. If any one has suggestions...or better yet space, please call a Board member and pass along the information.



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

Coming soon: the
new edition of the
DEL RAY ARTISANS
T-shirt!!

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 is a community arts group featuring two and three dimensional works of decorative and functional art and fine crafts through exhibitions, lectures, and instructional classes in the community. DEL RAY ARTISANS is funded, managed and operated by ARTS RESOURCE FOUNDATION.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Nick Bayus, Community Involvement Director, (703)-549-1094
Kathryn Brown, Selection Committee Chair & Ass't Treas., (703) 549-5227
Charlotte Corcoran, Assistant Membership Director, (703) 548-1521
Ellyn Ferguson, Director, (703) 549-2660
Martha Larson, Communications Director, (703) 836-0413
Marlin Lord, Treasurer (703) ~~549-5227~~ ~~549-5227~~
David Nicholson, Executive Director & Public Relations (703) 836-2975
Helen Ottaway, Director (703) 549-6947
Les Perkins, Marketing & Graphics Director (703) 836-7731
Dara Schumaler, Mailing List Director, (703) 836-7731
Lauren Smirniotopoulos, Director (703) 548-9530