



THE

Well-Crafted Word

news from the del ray artisans

january 1997

THE NIGHT BEFORE RENAISSANCE

'Twas the week before Christmas, when
all throughout the land
All sorts of creatures were stirring,
including a Gypsy Caravan.
The boxes were loaded and the dollies
packed with care,
In hopes that our new landlords' keys soon
would be there.
The Gypsies, **Bob, Marlin, Walter** and
Dave, all mustered to
While visions of new shows danced in
their heads, **Mart, Charlotte** and
Terry found many things to do...
But I heard them exclaim as they drove
into the night,
"It's a New Gallery for all, and for all a
good site!"

by **Dave Nicholson** with sincere
apologies to Clement C. Moore

Yes, it's true. The Del Ray Artisans have moved into new exhibition space at 2213 Mt Vernon Avenue. Space in the Art Deco style building has been offered to us by it's owners Sally & Gary Christian. We now have use of the front two rooms that have nice display windows. We are most grateful for the generosity shown to us by Sally & Gary. Check out the new space at the Valentine Card Making Party Thursday, January 16th. Many thanks to **Marlin Lord** for negotiating the move for us.

The Well-Crafted Word is funded in part by grants from the Virginia Commission of the Arts and the Alexandria Arts Commission.

CUPID'S CARD MAKING PARTY THURSDAY, JANUARY 16TH

For all those who missed the first card making party and those who had so much fun at the first one, mark your calendars for Thursday, January 16th at 7 pm in our new site: 2213 Mt. Vernon Avenue. You're invited to participate if you are an artist or just someone who appreciates art. Come and help the Del Ray Artisans make and assemble cards: one to keep and a few to sell!! We will make valentines as well as other custom creations. If you're not an artist don't despair, we will help you develop those skills that have been asleep since kindergarten!

For a few hours we will cut out shapes, glue photos, collage using beautiful papers, print with potatoes or erasers. Choose your medium! Bring what you have to work with. Some ideas may include paints, brushes, metallic threads, needles, ribbon, pressed flowers or herbs, photos, magazines (to cut up) scissors, glue and potatoes. Inspiration will be on hand such as interesting cards, craft magazines, art books. Some supplies will be provided by the Artisans, but this is a cooperative effort so bring whatever materials and ideas you can share. This event is about expression, creativity and community.

RSVP is not necessary, but if you have questions, call **Becky Heavner** at 683-1544. If you plan to bring children please keep in mind that due to the nature of the materials this activity may not be appropriate for ages under 10. In addition all children must be monitored by their parents or an adult. Bring your materials, card making ideas and fun spirit. It will be a blast!



Editor: **Mart Larson** Contributors: **Alice Cannon, Steve Crossett, Becky Heavner, Dave Nicholson**



RITA AND STEVE'S MUSICAL 'VENTURE

Del Ray Artisans **Rita Longhofer** and **Steve Crossett** are participating in an effort to pitch a musical/theatrical show to investors in New York City. **Rita** has a background in music and is performing in an original work by Roger Warren. The show which is titled "The Costume Shop" is described as a "two person, two act musical of intimate estrangement". **Steve** is the narrator and has been busy creating art to publicize the show. The good news is that there will be a reading of the show right here in the neighborhood at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, at the corner of Del Ray & Mt. Vernon Avenues on **Saturday, January 18th at 8:30 PM**. The reading will be a "bare bones rehearsal" that will feature 20 songs and 45 minutes of dialogue. The entire show will last approximately 70 minutes. Let's fill up the place and offer our support as these talented artisans launch "The Costume Shop". Know anyone interested in investing????

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING SETS VISION

Many thanks to **Andrea LaRue** for hosting the January membership meeting. We met to re-visit our mission as a group and to define our direction. Several themes surfaced. Artists agreed that they value the Del Ray Artisans as a unique place to show their work and to meet and learn from other artists. "Non-artists" stressed the importance of DRA as a gathering spot that fosters a sense of community and connection with others. We see ourselves as a catalyst for business development as well as cultural enrichment. It was decided that we must do more to reach out beyond our immediate Del Ray environs. We are looking for spokespersons to act as liaisons between the Del Ray Artisans and civic groups. What can you do to spread the

word about the artistic and community building opportunities offered through Del Ray Artisan events? To that end we have invited two guests to our February 18th meeting who are active in the arts and in city government to respond to our questions. Also emerging from the meeting is a desire to learn more about how to develop an "arts incubator" program in Alexandria. The months ahead are sure to be exciting ones. **Join us at 2213 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Tuesday, February 18th at 7 pm** to be part of the dialogue.

EXHIBITION VENUES OFFERED

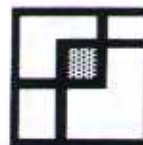
The Alexandria Jaycees invites artists to participate in a **Spring Thaw Festival** at Landmark Mall April 19th and 20th. The festival will feature arts and crafts vendors, antique vendors, entertainment, food and games. The entry fee is \$100. **Entry Deadline is January 31st**. Call Sue Ciminelli at 719-6140 for more information.

American Political Network

Artists interested in exhibiting their artwork in the offices of American Political Network (located in the office complex across from the Calvert Grille) should contact **Kathryn Brown** at 683-1112.

Online Photo Magazine ISO Photographers

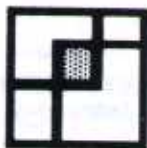
Member **David Talmage's** second edition of Pictures Quarterly will go online February 1st. If you are a photographer with images you'd like included, **contact David before January 15th**. The May issue will feature "portraiture". Contact **David** at: <http://www.worldweb.net/~talmage/PicturesQuarterly/>



CALL FOR ENTRIES

"ARTISTS IN THE FAMILY: SIDE BY SIDE ACROSS THE GENERATIONS"

Who influenced you in your development as an artist...or who is growing up in your family and developing as an artist? Think of the hours spent at the side of that family member or friend as you built things, sewed, painted and created. Here is a rare opportunity to honor that bond. Curator **Alice Cannon** invites you to display your artwork alongside the artwork of the person who means most to you in terms of your personal artistic development. Or perhaps you'd rather display work with a family member who is emerging as an artist. This intergenerational mixed media show will run from February 28th through March 29th. The gallery space will be open Saturdays and artists will be asked to help host the gallery. An Opening Reception will be held on Friday, February 28th from 7 - 10 PM. **Items and registration forms must be submitted Monday, February 17th from 4 - 7 PM.** For more information please call **Alice Cannon** at 683-3252. Only one of the persons displaying must be a member of Del Ray Artisans.



Become a Member Join Del Ray Artisans Now!

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

I am interested in volunteering. Yes No

I can be a liaison for Del Ray Artisans at my local civic group. 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



DEL RAY ARTISANS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JAN 16 CUPID'S CARD MAKING PARTY, 7 PM ARTISAN CENTER
JAN 18 "THE COSTUME SHOP" MUSICAL @ ST. ELMO'S, 8:30 PM
- FEB 17 SUBMIT ARTWORK FOR ARTISTS IN THE FAMILY SHOW
4 - 7 PM ARTISAN CENTER
- FEB 18 GENERAL MEETING, 7 PM ARTISAN CENTER
- FEB 28 OPENING RECEPTION: ARTISTS IN THE FAMILY: SIDE BY SIDE
ACROSS THE GENERATIONS, 7 - 10 PM
- FEB 28 - MAR 29 EXHIBITION HOURS FOR ARTISTS IN THE FAMILY
SATURDAYS FROM 11 AM - 4 PM



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

CARD MAKING PARTY

7 PM

THURS. JAN. 16TH

ARTISAN CENTER

NEW SITE

2213 Mt. Vernon Ave.

Alexandria, Virginia

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.

An Open Invitation...

Several positions are open on the Board of Directors and we welcome anyone who has a willingness to work with others and can drive a project to completion. Areas of need: Membership, Children's Programming, Curating, Grant Writing....

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

- Nick Bayus**, Director Community Involvement , (703)-549-9323
Kathryn Brown, Ass't Treas. & Selection Committee Chair, (703) 836-2724
Charlotte Corcoran, Assistant Executive Director, (703) 548-1521
Ellyn Ferguson, Director, (703) 549-2660
Martha Larson, Secretary & Communications Director, (703) 836-0413
Robert Larson, Director, (703) 836-0413
Marlin Lord, Treasurer (703) 683-1112
David Nicholson, Executive Director & Public Relations (703) 836-2975
Helen Ottaway, Director (703) 549-6947
Les Perkins, Director Marketing & Graphics (703) 836-7731
Dara Schumaier, Director Mailing List , (703) 836-7731
Susan Downs Slattery, Director (703)922-7290