

Join the Del Ray Artisans in Celebrating ALEXANDRIA!

What does Alexandria mean to you? Cobblestone streets once trod by George Washington? Boating on the Potomac River? Looking for birds at Monticello Park or for flowers at the Winkler Botanical Preserve? Hanging out at your favorite cafe in Del Ray?

Show us in your preferred medium what you celebrate about living, working, and/or socializing in Alexandria. If the connection to our fair city isn't obvious from your artwork, please express it in a sentence or two. All media encouraged. The "Celebrate Alexandria!" exhibition will run from February 8 to 24. For more information, contact curators **Leslie Wilder** at 703-549-1896, or **Jane DeWeerd** at 703-548-2612. ■

Card-making Party

Want a fun way to socialize with your fellow artists? Host a card-making party at your home to support the Del Ray Artisans' ongoing fundraiser of selling handmade greeting cards. The cards are sold at the Gallery space and at St Elmo's Coffee Pub on Mt Vernon Avenue.

Stephanie Howser has held her own card-making parties in her home in the past, and now she is inviting other DRA members to join in the fun! Stephanie's gathering will be on Sunday, January 27, from 2:30-5:30, and interested participants should contact Stephanie (703-516-7541) at least a few days ahead so that she may prepare. Space is limited, and the gathering is for adults only.

Another member, **Linda Silk** will host a card-making party at her home on Sunday, March 3rd, from 2:30-5:30. Linda also requests that artists interested in attending RSVP (703-533-7689) at least a few days in advance.

Because it is difficult to hold card-making parties at the Gallery space while an exhibit is going on, we have not been able to have many opportunities to meet and play "arts 'n crafts." The DRA greeting card supply has diminished, but more importantly, the sparks of creativity we get and give to each other is lost. Here's a way to refuel! If you would like to host a card party at your home, contact Linda Silk (703-533-7689) to have it announced in *The Well Crafted Word* newsletter. ■

Who Are We? Profile of a Del Ray Artisans Member

A Dream Builder

*"The great thing about being
an architect is you can walk
into your dreams."*

Harold E. Wagoner

When architect **Bob Larson** and a handful of neighbors joined together to form the Del Ray Artisans (DRA), they created a dream for the community. With **Peter Smirniotopoulos'** idea of a functional artists collective, DRA embraced area residents who were restoring their homes and sprucing up their property and set to establish itself as a catalyst for the revitalization of Mount Vernon Avenue. Now, ten years later, the neighborhood of Del Ray has been featured in local and national magazines as a trendy "Main Street" community.

As a homeowner and businessman who had a vested interest in the "shape" of the community, Bob's involvement with DRA was natural, but his contribution goes beyond being a founding member. With every move the DRA made to new gallery sites, he was there to clean, paint, and build. He drywalled, built display pedestals, suspended lighting, planted flowerbeds, and helped to hang artwork for dozens upon dozens of gallery shows. And though he doesn't consider himself an artist, several DRA shows have featured Bob's photography,

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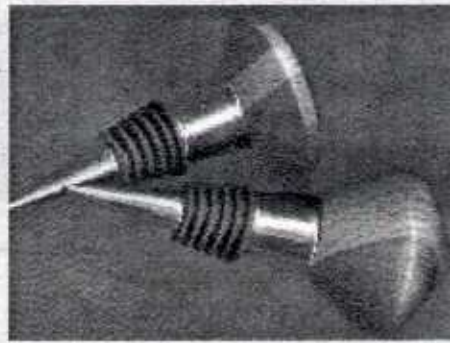
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woodworking, and 3d-construction-like sculptures, such as the geodesic sphere that appeared in the *Science & Nature* show.

Since his early days in high school, Bob has steadfastly pursued his career choice as architect. After majoring in architecture in college, he joined the Peace Corps with his wife **Mart**, a teacher. They were sent to Venezuela for a two-year stint where he served as an architect with the city planner. Some of the projects were big—creating bus stations and marketplaces—and some were of a more modest scale, helping individuals in need build their own homes. Each required that the design fit into the context of the city plan.

From the Peace Corps, it was off to Chicago working for a firm to create large buildings such as schools, hospitals, and hotels. A few years later came the move here, and again Bob was working on big (\$5 million plus) structures. One assignment took him to Singapore for 6 months to design a subway station! And though the original plan had been to stay in the DC metro area only a few years, in the end Bob and Mart decided to settle down in Del Ray. Bob hung out his shingle as a self-employed architect, and they started planning their "dream house."

Designing and building the house was a family endeavor, and apart from pouring the foundation and shingling the roof, Bob, Mart and their two sons did the work themselves. It took 15



Crafted from cherry, paduk, purpleheart and other quality woods and turned a variety of shapes, Martin Angebrannt's elegant winestoppers were popular with the shoppers. Calling it a "banner day," he sold half his inventory.

months, but every room they walk into represents their handiwork, from framing the walls and hanging the ceiling, to installing the windows and laying the Mexican tile floors.

For many years now, Bob has been very active volunteering with the community program *Christmas in April*, to help poor, elderly and disabled families repair their homes. In addition to serving on their Board as President, Bob works on the houses painting, doing carpentry, and cleaning. Last year they helped 60 Alexandria families.

As an architect of buildings big and small, overseas and in the neighborhood, Bob has made tangible the dreams of his clients and his family. His continuing contributions are making real the dreams for a community. ■

Attention Artists and Crafts People!

Alexandria Volunteer Bureau is looking for vendors for the 22nd Annual Old Town Arts and Craft Fair to be held Saturday and Sunday, May 4 & 5, 2002, Noon to 6:00 pm.

Only original work is permitted. If work is judged to be manufactured, or composed of a majority of manufactured pieces, rather than handmade at the time of the Fair, the exhibitor will be required to leave without a refund. Imported goods are not permitted. Demonstrations are encouraged.

Look for more complete details and the APPLICATION FOR SPACE in the upcoming February *Well Crafted Word* newsletter.

The Holiday Show & Sale

The Holiday Show and Sale was held on a very rainy Saturday (December 8th). The rain kept the hordes away, but we were visited by many stalwart shoppers, who made the day a modest success for our 19 artists who had created some very terrific, innovative, and beautiful gift items.

Announcements

HELP! Curators Needed

2002 is here and we still don't have curators for the Spring All-Member Show in April and the Fall All-Member Show in September. Any interested individuals or teams please contact **Liz Martinez**, Gallery Coordinator at 703-683-1969 or catniphaze@home.com

Wanted: Art Donations

Resurrection Children's Center, an Alexandria preschool that serves disabled and nondisabled kids, is holding an auction in March to raise money. Del Ray artists who are willing to donate artwork or personal art instruction to be auctioned off in the silent auction should contact **Katherine Caraway** at 703-684-9051. **The deadline for donations is Jan. 31.** Resurrection Children's Center is located at 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA.

Truck Donation

Looking to unload a truck or van and want to write it off as a charitable donation? The Del Ray Artisans is in need of a truck or similar carryall. Call 703-838-4827 and leave a message, someone from the Gallery will get in touch with you to discuss the details.

What would happen? Let's find out!

"What would happen if every Alexandria artist sent \$10 to T.C. Williams' Art Department?" That's the question posed in an advertisement by Primary Properties Realtors. To understand how this compelling query came to be, you need only look back to a DRA *Gallery Without Walls* exhibit held November 4th through December 4th. Hosted by Patti Miller's Primary Properties, the exhibit showcased the artwork of T.C. Williams' Art teachers Holly Langenfeld, Patricia J. (Doc) Lewis, Ph.D., and Dianne McClaugherty.

Because the high school's budget for art supplies is so limited, the teachers organized the art exhibit as a fundraiser. While school funds pay to

equip the classrooms at the start of each school year, the teachers must frequently delve into their personal bank accounts to pay for additional classroom supplies or refresh stock. In addition to donating a portion of the proceeds from the sale of their own artwork, the teachers hoped to raise public awareness of the financial need.

To date, the teachers have raised \$600 through the sale of their work at the exhibit's opening reception. Their goal is \$3,000. Both Lewis and McClaugherty sold four pieces; Langenfeld's body of work was withheld from sale for a future Master's Thesis show. The teachers were very pleased with the turnout to their exhibit and for the opportunity to participate in a *Gallery Without Walls*

venue such as Primary Properties. They are grateful that owner Patti Miller continues to support their cause through her advertisement.

So Artists (and non-artists), if you want to respond to the advertisement and support art education, send your donation to: T.C. Williams' Art Department, 3330 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302. ■

Gallery Without Walls

Please take advantage of these continuing opportunities for an exhibition of your artwork—or team up with friends for a two or three person show such as the teachers above! For more information call or e-mail Kathryn Brown at 703-549-5227 or neonkanb@psualum.com. You are invited to call these locations directly; identify yourself as a Del Ray Artisans member, and ask for an appointment:

- *Barnes and Noble Potomac Yard*, contact Community Relations Manager Courtney Monkhouse at 703-299-9473
- *Primary Properties Realtors*, contact Owner Patti Miller at 703-567-4770
- *Weichert Realtors in Old Town*, contact Ann Misurella or Manager Michael Turk at 703-549-8700

And remember to let us know so we can get notice in the newsletter!

Adopt A Park

Can you help clean up the grounds around the Gallery?
Contact Marlin Lord at 703.683.1112

Become a Member, Join Del Ray Artisans

(or Renew your membership)

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone(s): _____

E-mail: _____

I am an artist (medium): _____

I am a supporter of the arts

Is this a membership renewal? Yes No

I am interested in volunteering. Yes No

Membership Categories for One (1) Year:

Individual: \$35 Household: \$50 Corporate: \$100

Student/Senior/Disadvantaged: \$10

Please make check payable to *Del Ray Artisans*.

Mail check and membership form to *Del Ray Artisans*, Attn: Membership, 2210 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22301

Please submit your articles for the February newsletter by 5:00pm January 20th to Linda Silk, at LMSilk@aol.com



Del Ray Artisans
Mail: 2210 Mount Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22301
703.838.4827
www.radiodelray.com/artisans

Thanks to the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the City of Alexandria

Next General Member Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, 7PM
at DRA Gallery Space
Nicholas A. Colasanto Center
2704 Mount Vernon Avenue

DRA Meetings are held on the
2nd Tuesday of every month.

Officers and Board of Directors

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Bryan Leister, *Mail List Coordinator*,
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Vivienne Lukacs 703.979.8996

Liz Martinez, *Gallery Coordinator*,
703.683.1969

Pat Parkinson 703.606.9270

Barbara Robinson 703.683.6951

Karen Schmitz, *PR Co-Coordinator*,
703.836.0045

Susan Downs Slattery, *PR Co-Coordinator*,
703.922.7290

Jen Whitman 703.765.1510

Beth Wrightson 703.683.0222

The Well Crafted Word newsletter is published monthly by the Del Ray Artisans. Newsletter Staff: Mart Larson, Liz Martinez, Linda Silk. Contributing writers: Debbie Mezzetta and Leslie Wilder.

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 exhibits, lectures, and instructional classes in the community. **Del Ray Artisans** is funded, managed, and operated by **Arts Resource Foundation**.

DRA Calendar

2002

- January **Del Ray Artisans 10th Anniversary Retrospect Exhibit, January 11-27, Saturdays 10 am-4 pm and Sundays noon-4 pm, curators Mart Larson & Deborah Peterson**
Opening Reception, Friday, January 11, 7-10 pm.
- February **Celebrate Alexandria! February 8-24, curators Leslie Wilder (703-549-1896) and Jane DeWeerd (703-548-2612)**
- March **From the Home—A Collaboration with Springwater Fiber Workshop, March 8-24, Springwater curator Ann Liddle (703-548-1962 or annliddle@home.com) and DRA co-curator Debbie Mezzetta (703-560-3734)**
- April **Spring All Member Show, April 5-21, ISO curator**
- May **Student Art Show, May 10-26, curator Linda Silk**
- June **Fun & Games, June 7 - 23, co-curators Karen Schmitz and Susan Slattery**
- July **Art Camp, July 29-August 2, coordinators Liz Martinez & Barbara Robinson ISO a volunteer with grant writing experience**
- August **Bob Gilbert University Degree Show, August 16-September 1**
- September **Fall All Member Show, September 13-29, ISO curator**
- October **Reincarnations: Making Refound Objects into Art, October 11-27, curators Marie Niernberger & Liz Martinez**
- November **Seasons, November 8-24, curators Sue Kulesher & Vivienne Lukacs**
- December **Holiday Show and Sale, December 7**

Many thanks to Royce Flowers for the lovely contributions to our opening receptions and to Randy Allen and Radio Del Ray for hosting our Web pages.