

## Art Camp Starts Soon

Once again, the Del Ray Artisans is offering a week long art camp for kids ages 8 to 15 years old. From July 29 thru August 2 campers will learn a wide range of arts and crafts, including gourd carving, basket weaving, polaroid photo transfer, decoupage, drawing and painting. Several DRA members are teaching the classes, but volunteers are still needed to help the instructors and with food prep. Plus, a donation of cigar boxes is needed for a camp project. Interested parties should contact **Barbara Robinson** at 703.683.6951. Mark your calendars—Everyone is welcomed to the Art Camp Open House on August 2 from 4-7 pm to view an exhibition of the campers' creativity. ■

## The Del Ray Artisans Feature a Fun 'n Games-filled Exhibit Plus, Two Evenings of Laughs in June!

The curators of the upcoming Del Ray Artisans' June exhibit "Fun 'n Games: From Belly Laughs to Bocce Balls", really meant it when they invited artists to create art and have fun doing it. Inspired by humankind's eternal quest for a good time, this show is a chance for artists to exhibit fun and innovative art with equal parts of invention, giggles of pure silliness and even a touch of the darker side of games and toys that can thrill or frighten.

In addition to the exhibit, which will be held at the DRA Gallery, Nicholas Colasanto Center, 2704 Mt. Vernon Avenue in Alexandria, "Fun 'n Games" will feature two special evenings of fun, so don't miss either one! Evening #1, "Fun 'n Games" will be part of Del

Ray's First Thursday event (June 6th, 6:00 - 9:00 PM), while Evening #2 will feature a fun-packed opening reception (Friday, June 7th, 7:00 - 10:00PM). In the spirit of wackiness and surprise, curators Karen Schmitz and Susan Slattery promise two evenings you won't forget. So bring your sense of humor and don't leave home without your kazoos and rubber chickens! Both events will be held at the gallery and are free and open to the public.

"Fun 'n Games" runs through Sunday, June 23rd. Gallery hours are 10 - 4PM Saturdays, noon - 4 PM Sundays. The exhibit is free and open to the public. For more information, contact **Susan Slattery** at [devisu@erols.com](mailto:devisu@erols.com), 571.213.1424 or **Karen Schmitz** 703.836.0035. ■

### Who Are We? Profile of a Del Ray Artisans Member

## The Out-of-Towner

When **Alice Cannon** moved to Charlottesville four years ago it was a shock to her system. The move meant leaving Alexandria after 23 years as an art volunteer in the schools, and leaving her role as watercolor teacher for a tight knit group of senior citizens. She also walked away from a healthy network of clients and her friends at the Del Ray Artisans where she had learned to take her artwork seriously. Fortunately she landed on her feet and has been flourishing in her new environment doing what she does best: celebrate community through teaching and creating artwork.

Alice cannot remember a time when she was not taking art classes, learning new techniques and making things. As a young person she enrolled at Bennington College where she tried to decide between careers in art, teaching and social work. The art department at her new school considered her landscapes and portraits to be of another era. Abstract expressionism was in vogue. "It was a very dogmatic time," Alice recalls. "I stopped taking myself seriously as an artist after that experience." She continued drawing and taking art classes but majored in Literature and later received a Masters in Education. She became an elemen-

*Continued from Page 1*

tary school teacher.

Alice and her new husband Jon moved to Alexandria in 1974. Shortly thereafter her children Ariel, Maia and Ben were born. Being at home with three active toddlers presented quite a challenge. "Every time I would try to paint, the kids would interrupt me. It made me angry and I didn't like that." So Alice put away painting and began making her pictures through crafts. She wove pictures in wool, designed knitting patterns, worked in batik, applique and created jewelry. Somehow it was not as jarring to be interrupted from these types of pursuits. In fact she engaged her children in all manner of art projects and instilled in them, and later their classmates, the love of making things.

First as a volunteer creating supplemental art experiences for kindergarten children at Mt. Vernon and Maury Elementary Schools and later as an employee for the Alexandria Recreation Department, Alice reached out to hundreds of young people.

At the same time she remained a curious art student often taking courses at the Torpedo Factory. An exploratory class in millifiori polymer technique led to her first commercial success as an

artist. Alice explains, "It was such a new medium. I kept making discoveries with it and found it really fun to do. I liked that I couldn't completely control it, the way I could a painting." She used the layered canes as collage elements to create intricate, whimsical jewelry. The word got out and she started taking commissions to create commemorative pieces. She was thrilled that her work was so well received.

Member **Charlotte Corcoran** invited her to sell her jewelry in DRA's First Annual Holiday Sale. Before long Alice was curating shows and connecting with other artists. "Through the Artisans I began taking myself more seriously as an artist. Because of the encouragement and stimulation I received in the group I was able to make the transition to doing serious artwork." She credits the mentorship of Artisan **Helen Ottaway** for helping her grow into maturity as an artist.

When Helen moved to the Pacific Northwest she handed over the reins of a fledgling art class made up of senior citizens hungry to learn watercolor to her friend Alice Cannon. The only problem was Alice didn't do watercolor. "I thought it was too wishy-washy, too pale. I enrolled in watercolor classes at the Torpedo Factory to learn the

technique. I kept one class ahead of the seniors and to my surprise, loved what happened. We were all so excited with our progress we couldn't stand ourselves!"

Her success with the seniors prepared her for the isolation she was about to experience when her husband took a job in Charlottesville. Suddenly she had no community. For the first time in her life Alice was free to paint. She became so prolific that it was natural for her to keep her membership in the Artisans. Her work continues to sell at DRA shows and her creations for the OffBeat Auctions and theme shows are greatly anticipated. "Alexandria is still a part of me. I appreciate the stimulation the Artisans provides and the opportunity to have fun artistically. In fact I have tried to make art groups here into the Artisans, but so far it hasn't worked," she laughs.

She did not remain isolated. Today she tutors in the local school, teaches art in two retirement homes and is an active member of the Central Virginia Watercolor Guild.

Alice is the consummate Del Ray Artisan: artist, activist, teacher and learner. ■

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## *The Power of Flowers*

**W**ith the gardens in bloom, it's time to take a moment to congratulate two of our members for receiving Alexandria Beautification Awards in 2001. A Residential Award went to **C.P. (Peter) and Dee Schumaier** for their home at 2403 Leslie Avenue. (Former residents of Old Town, they moved from there to our Del Ray neighborhood!) A Service Award went to **Dale May** for his work in and surrounding the community gardens in Chinquapin Park.

When Peter and Dee moved to Del Ray, their home had been vacant for 10

to 12 years, so the complete transformation they have achieved in their yard is even more impressive. They have added a stone wall, enriched the soil with topsoil, mulch and lime, and now showcase a garden rich in perennials and herbs. They keep their award in the front yard to encourage neighbors in their efforts!

Dale has been maintaining his own garden plot at Chinquapin for many years—but has not stopped at his own borders. He has also helped the City to maintain a composting demonstration area, and spent countless volun-

teer hours planting and upkeeping beautiful flower displays lining the edges of the entire garden area—creating inspiration for hundreds of gardeners and park users!

Thank you Peter, Dee, and Dale for helping to beautify our community! ■

### *Welcome New Members!*

Patricia L. Braun  
Gwen Teresa Gay  
James Green

# Just For Fun!

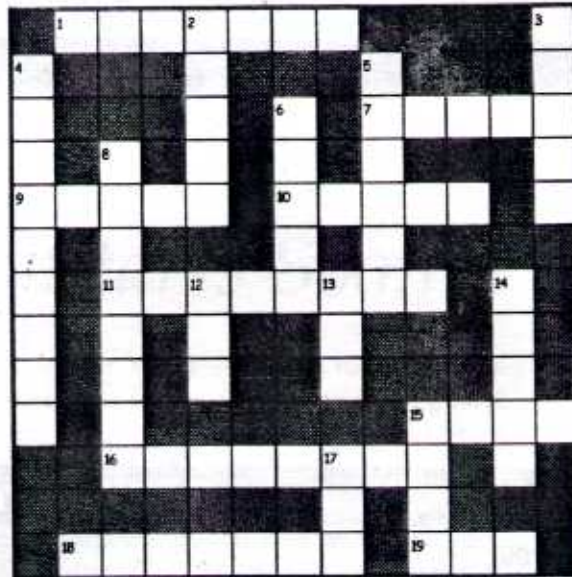
In keeping with the Fun 'n Games Art Exhibit at Del Ray Artisans, try your hand at this!

### Across

1. You might lose them
7. Art supporter
9. Entertain
10. French impressionist
11. Del Ray \_\_\_\_\_
15. Barbie
16. Rodin, ie
18. Exhibition venue
19. It can be dry

### Down

2. Italian bowling game
3. With 14 down, "From \_\_\_\_\_ Laughs to Bocce \_\_\_\_\_"
4. Nicholas \_\_\_\_\_ Center
5. Mount \_\_\_\_\_ Avenue
6. "Fun 'n \_\_\_\_\_"
8. Exhibit organizers
12. Del Ray Artisans is this old
13. DRA's focus
14. With 3 down
15. Sketch
17. Plaything



## Taking the Initiative

Patrons of the Old Town Alexandria restaurant Pasta Peasant are seeing a change of venue, courtesy of Del Ray Artisans member **Chad Brady**. Chad, a frequent diner at the restaurant, noticed that its walls were looking a tad plain. This was especially evident after the owner started upgrading the countertops in the carryout section of the restaurant. So, Chad suggested that he could add some spice with a custom mural and stenciling. A lovely stenciled and freehand-painted grape arbor now adorns the carryout area. The dining room features trompe l'oeil arched windows looking out on the canals of Venice. Quite a change! The owner is thrilled, and he considers himself lucky that Chad took the initiative to offer his artistic services. ■

## 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

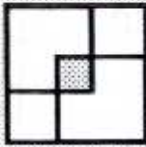
Please make check payable to *Del Ray Artisans*.

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

Please submit your articles for  
the July newsletter by 5:00pm  
June 20th to Linda Silk, at  
[LMSilk@aol.com](mailto:LMSilk@aol.com)

### Answer to Puzzle





**Del Ray Artisans**  
 Mail: 2210 Mount Vernon Avenue  
 Alexandria, Virginia 22301  
 703.838.4827  
 www.racliodelray.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, June 11, 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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*The Well Crafted Word* newsletter is published monthly by the Del Ray Artisans. Newsletter Staff: Mart Larson, Liz Martinez, Linda Silk. Contributing writers: Susan Downs Slattery.

**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**

June **First Thursday, 6:00 PM June 6**, Gallery open to public.

**Fun 'n Games: From Belly Laughs to Bocce Balls, June 7 - 23**, co-curators Karen Schmitz (703-836-0035) and Susan Slattery (703-922-7290)

July **Art Camp, July 29-August 2**, coordinators Liz Martinez (703-567-3760) & Barbara Robinson (703-683-6951) ISO a volunteer with grant writing experience

**Elections of DRA Board of Directors**

August **First Thursday, 6:00 PM August 1**, Gallery open to public.

**Watercolors of the Northeast by Bob Gilbert, August 16-September 1**

September **Fall All Member Show, September 13-29**, ISO curator

October **Art on the Avenue**

**Reincarnations: Making Refound Objects into Art, October 11-27**, curators Marie Niernberger (703-683-2514) & L'Tonya Tobin (703-739-0424)

November **Seasons, November 8-24**, curators Sue Kulesher (703-684-7688) & Vivienne Lukacs (703-979-8996)

December **Holiday Show and Sale, December 7**, limited vendor space due to the small venue—Vendors on a 1st call basis. Contact Liz Martinez 703-567-3760 or catniphaze@comcast.net

**A Tribute to All Things Magical, December 13-29**, curator Sarah Pearson

*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.*