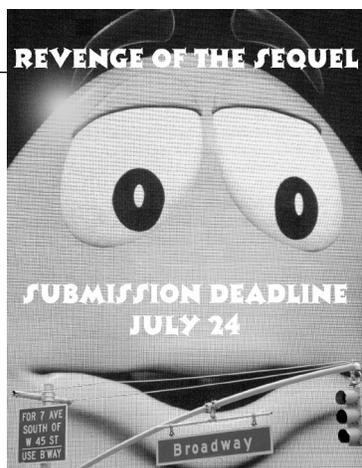


# The Well Crafted Word

a monthly publication of the **Del Ray Artisans**...since 1992

[www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org)



## DON'T FORGET...

### Entry Deadline is July 24 for Revenge of the Sequel

By David A. Kosar

The clock is ticking, and the July 24 submission deadline for DRA's *Revenge of the Sequel*, the first of its kind art exhibition in the country, is just around the corner. Get in touch with your Muse(s), and let those creative juices flow for this juried, all-media art show, providing artists the opportunity to unleash their talents to create an image(s) that depicts and conveys their uninhibited and unabashed versions of a sequel. This is an open call to all artists everywhere.

If you haven't reviewed the call for entry, please go to either the DRA Web site at [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org) to download a copy, or stop by the gallery to pick up a copy, or contact the curator who will e-mail you a copy. We apologize for the call inadvertently being left out of last month's edition of TWCW. But we hope this doesn't stop you from submitting works for what is sure to be a fun, innovative, exciting, and saleable show.

As a reminder, although the show opens in September, the reason for the July 24 submission deadline is because the review of artwork is being done differently, and time is needed to complete this process. Artwork entered must be submitted on CDs, no slides, and must be received no later than close-of-business on Friday, July 24. Videographers should contact the curator before proceeding.

Entry fees are: DRA members, \$20; nonmembers, \$30. Artists may submit up to three images for the nonrefundable entry fee. If you want to submit more than three works, you may do so for an additional \$10 per image. Local artists, including DRA members, accepted are required to gallery sit during show dates (no exceptions). All artwork must be for sale. Show dates are September 4-27. Curator is David A. Kosar, 703-836-5483, [david.kosar@verizon.net](mailto:david.kosar@verizon.net).

## Volunteerism is Our Lifeblood

By Linda Silk

Volunteerism is our lifeblood... Ohm... Volunteerism is our lifeblood... Ohm... That should be our new mantra. Sure, "Celebrating the art of making" is catchier, but it misses a key component of our success: We are **all** volunteers!

When members join DRA, they are asked to volunteer ten hours every year. How they volunteer is up to them—helping to maintain the gallery's award-winning gardens, writing press releases for upcoming shows, researching grant opportunities—or a multitude of other valuable activities. Ten hours isn't that big a commitment spread over a year; many spend more time each week watching television. When you consider that DRA provides a dynamic gallery where members can exhibit their art for less than any professional gallery in the region, this contribution by volunteers is what keeps our doors open. [Note: gallery sitting by exhibiting artists is a requirement for individuals participating in a show, and is not part of the ten-hour membership obligation.] \*

Occasionally, I hear someone complain that they don't want to spend their free time volunteering to do the same thing they do in their day job. But that may be the best payment you could give the organization that promotes your artwork, provides creative fellowship, and enhances the quality of life to the community. Consider that what you do easily, another may struggle with. That might be the perfect task for you to volunteer.

The Del Ray Artisans membership application lists the following areas in need of volunteers: communications, fundraising, program organization, newsletter, grants, website, facilities, publicity, gardening, archives, administration, outreach, financial, and shows. If you can provide legal counsel, accounting/bookkeeping services, or data-entry/database maintenance, email me—DRA needs you! If you can hang shows, write grants, or spend one hour every month phone calling to line up food donations for the opening receptions—email me. **I would be thrilled to get emails from all 300 of you wanting to volunteer!**

But I am not the only one who wants to hear from you. In every newsletter, the directors of DRA are listed along with their email addresses, and each director oversees a committee that needs volunteers. Email them. Your participation will make us a stronger and more responsive organization so we can be celebrating the art of making for years to come.

You can reach me at [LindaSilk1@verizon.net](mailto:LindaSilk1@verizon.net).

### \*Exhibiting at DRA:

- Gallery sitting is a requirement for participation in DRA shows.
- In lieu of sitting, work with the curator for an alternate volunteer assignment.
- If something prevents you from sitting on your assigned day/time, please immediately contact the show curator directly (via phone or email) to reschedule.
- Please do not leave any gallery sitting or other time-sensitive messages for the curator on the gallery answering machine or website.
- Members with gallery keys may be asked to open or close on multiple days.

**Membership Notice: Please check your newsletter label to see if your membership has expired. Renew today.**

## Stay young at heart by volunteering at Art Camp!

Join us for the journey of a young lifetime when campers will take over the DRA gallery July 27-31 from 9 am-4 pm. During this "green themed" art adventure, we will be turning environmental eye sores into amazing eye candy.

Volunteers are able to mold the creative spirit in the campers, help regain a sense of freedom and youthful passion for their own art, AND fulfill DRA membership requirements! Join us for some time during this week to enhance both your and their lives! You are able to commit to as little as 3 hours or as much as the whole week!

Planned activities include:

- Fabric mache creatures
- Painting garden stepping stones
- Recycled T-shirt bags
- Multi-media amulets and pendants
- Book making
- Clay percussion instruments
- Garden wind chimes

And more!



*Girls playing cards L-R Gillian Sickler, Cieira Huff, Reagan Brown*

In keeping with the environmental theme, we are calling for some used or neglected supplies to be donated. Please remember, the theme is eco-friendly, so these items should be used, not bought new. However, Art Camp will gladly take some items that you already have but have not been able to put to use.

Materials that are still needed include:

- Used plastic report covers
- Fun and colorful stickers, especially letters
- Leather or satin cording, can be new or used
- Small metal objects, to be used for wind chimes, such as keys and washers
- Used balls of aluminum foil
- Pringles canisters, or similar tubular container, with lids

Spaces are still available for kids to participate in this event. The camp fee of \$275 per child includes all supplies, lunches and snacks. Time for games and wet fun will be interspersed between structured sessions.

In addition, donations are needed to sponsor a camper for this wonderful experience. Any and all donations are welcome no matter what size.

There are forms online for donations and registration of campers. Please contact Art Camp Coordinator, Jen Athanas to arrange a drop-off of donated materials or to schedule time to volunteer, at 571-332-0181 or [jenathanas@hotmail.com](mailto:jenathanas@hotmail.com).

## Sales Opportunity for DRA Members!

With the days longer and weather warming, DRA is going to be open for First Thursdays on Mount Vernon Avenue. To draw the neighborhood to our end of the Avenue and into the gallery, DRA wants to offer artists and artisans an opportunity to sell their works during the First Thursday hours in July and August.

In order to participate, you must bring your own table, present your work in a quality fashion and take full responsibility of set up and take down. Space is limited so this opportunity will be on a first come/first serve basis. Artists will have approximately 6 feet of space to work with. To request a spot, call Tracy Wilkerson at the gallery at (703) 838-4827 on First Thursday between noon and 4 pm. Set up must be completed by 6 pm and we will stay as long as natural lighting permits.

## Open Life Drawing

Open life drawing continues on selected Wednesdays this summer at the Del Ray Artisans gallery. We are going to be focusing on short poses (1-15 minutes) in the upcoming sessions since those have proven to be the most popular. These open life drawing (or painting) sessions operate on a drop-in basis so there is no need to register in advance. Grab your supplies and join us at the gallery to work from our live models.

July 1st, 2-5 pm

July 15th, 2-5 pm

August 12th, 2-5 pm

August 26th, 2-5 pm

September 9th, 2-5 pm

September 23rd, 2-5 pm

The fee for each session is \$8 for DRA members and \$10 for non-members. If you have any questions, please contact Katherine Rand at 703.836.1468 or [katherine@katherinerand.com](mailto:katherine@katherinerand.com).

## 2010 Shows Need You

DRA needs you to step up with show proposals for the 2010 exhibit year. Think about what excites you and what would challenge members for exhibitions next year. We are seeking proposals for exhibits whose themes reflect a state-wide initiative to celebrate women in the arts from March through June. The title selected is "Minds Wide Open," and your choice of themes, is in fact, wide open.

While we could easily host an "all-woman-artist" exhibit, we invite you to explore this theme more broadly—perhaps women and culture? Women through history? The female as icon? The female figure in art? You tell us.

The proposal submission deadline has been extended to August 31st so we can obtain your best proposals. There have been so many great shows this year including: Bond for Life, Object D'Art Challenge, Revenge of the Sequel, Through the Blade of Scissors and the young artists from TC Williams High School.

Please don't hesitate....help us generate some new art energy with your show proposal(s) due 8/31. The submission form is available at [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) or contact Karen at [schmityk@yahoo.com](mailto:schmityk@yahoo.com) for further information.

## Join DRA as an Artist or Supporter

Renewal

New Member

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/CorporationName \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Home (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Artist  Media \_\_\_\_\_

### Patron

- \$1,000 Platinum
- \$500 Gold
- \$250 Silver

*Patrons are considered Active Members and have exhibition privileges. Volunteer hours are not expected.*

### Active Member

- \$75 Household
- \$50 Individual
- \$25 Senior (62 & over)
- \$25 Student/Disabled (circle one)

*All Active Members enjoy privileges of exhibiting in shows and are expected to contribute a minimum of 10 volunteer hours per year. This does not include volunteer commitments for exhibiting in shows.*

### Friend

- \$35 Friend of Del Ray Artisans

*Friends may participate in workshops, classes, and programs as members. Friends do not have exhibition privileges. Volunteer hours are not expected.*

### All membership levels above receive DRA mailings, including the newsletter

I would like to receive DRA mailings:  electronically  via regular mail  both ways

I would like to make an additional donation to Del Ray Artisans in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to make an additional donation to the Del Ray Artisans Ted Eichers Memorial Art Scholarship in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

### Please indicate committees you are willing to serve on, to meet your 10 hour volunteer commitment:

- |                                      |   |                                  |                                 |                                  |                                      |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Communications | <input type="radio"/> Newsletter          | <input type="radio"/> Website    | <input type="radio"/> Publicity | <input type="radio"/> Archives   | <input type="radio"/> Administrative | <input type="radio"/> Financial; |
| <input type="radio"/> Fundraising    | <input type="radio"/> Grants              | <input type="radio"/> Facilities | <input type="radio"/> Gardening | <input type="radio"/> Volunteers | <input type="radio"/> Outreach       | <input type="radio"/> Shows      |
| <input type="radio"/> Programs       | <input type="radio"/> anything DRA needs. |                                  |                                 |                                  |                                      |                                  |

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: DEL RAY ARTISANS. Mail to: Del Ray Artisans, Membership, 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301 or pay online at [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org)

## Communications Corner

By Paige Ireland

[DRA.communications@gmail.com](mailto:DRA.communications@gmail.com)

Want to get more involved but just don't know how to do it? Looking for a way to fulfill your volunteer hour commitment to DRA? Looking for another outlet for your creative juices? Wish more people knew about the great things we do at DRA?

We have just the thing for you – become part of the Communications team – and help spread the word about this great organization and all our events and activities.

Here are a few areas where there are critical needs for additional volunteers:

- Writing and/or editing press releases, newsletter articles and brief calendar entries
- Improving our web presence in various social networks (e.g., Facebook, OneAlexandria.org, etc.)
- Posting DRA events on selected web-based event calendars
- Writing and editing feature articles for placement in local papers
- Redesigning our weekly e-mail announcement process
- Compiling and editing our email event announcements about upcoming happenings
- Researching e-card capabilities so DRA might be able to supplement physical postcard distribution with e-card distribution

Help get the word out about the DRA experience! Please contact Paige Ireland at 703.582.1019 or [DRA.communications@gmail.com](mailto:DRA.communications@gmail.com). DRA really needs your help.

## Start Cleaning Those Closets!

### It's not too early...

to start cleaning out all that wonderful stuff you don't use any more. **DRA's 2nd annual Yard Sale**

is coming up on **Saturday, Sept. 26.**

While we don't have storage space for your cast-offs now, you can start that bag or box.

## Hair to Locks of Love; Over \$800 in Donations to Scholarship Fund

Kathryn Brown, local photographer and member of the Del Ray Artisans (DRA), known in the Del Ray and local art communities for her long sweep of hair, worn past her waist since high school, has donated 14 inches of it to “Locks of Love.” The donated hair will replace that lost by many disadvantaged children suffering from medical hair loss.

Kathryn’s friends and colleagues were invited to join the snipping on March 15 at the Del Ray Artisans gallery. She wanted support as she took this big step, as well as donations per inch of snipped hair. The per-inch donations are directed to the Del Ray Artisans’ Ted Eichers Memorial Art Scholarship Fund. This fund provides an annual scholarship to a graduating T. C. Williams senior heading to college.

Kathryn shared her story with those gathered to offer support on the big day: “When I was growing up, my Mother cut our hair. I always wanted to grow my hair long, but Mother didn’t want to take care of it, and she liked short hair. My hair was ‘ram-rod’ straight at a time when straight hair wasn’t fashionable, so I was continually frustrated in trying to curl it.

“FINALLY, as a gift for my 8th grade graduation, Mother let me grow my hair! And the American counter-culture made long, straight hair the ‘in’ thing. For the first time in my life, my hair was the envy of all.

“Much as I loved her, I no longer trusted Mother to do any cutting, but I learned that my Dad liked long hair and was willing to take over the task. It became quite a bond between us, and after I left the roost, I could count on Dad to ask, ‘When are we going to trim your hair?’ whenever we visited. So my hair was kept healthy all these years.

“As the ‘fad’ of long hair became passé, I asked myself if I needed to cut mine. But I really had meant it when I had begged for long hair. I started to receive compliments from strangers, men and women, since long hair had become unusual. It became a mark of my individuality. So I kept it long for more years than I’m willing to say.

“I had actually begun cutting my Dad’s hair in the last years of his life, making our bond even stronger. When my Father passed on at age 84 in 2006, my hair was no longer being trimmed. I started to wonder how long it would grow. When I was able to sit on it, it became, for the first time, a bother to me. But the thought of having anyone but my Dad trim my hair had become a very emotional one.

“Then a graduating high school senior with hair longer than mine told me that she was going to donate her hair to “Locks of Love”. One could donate as little as 10 inches. This meant that I could donate mine, without having to have it cut short. This was now something that I could look forward to, rather than looking backwards, and I was ready.

“Theresa Kulstad, a fellow member of DRA, a friend, and a professional hairdresser, was an obvious choice to do the cutting. She provides her services at no cost to persons donating their hair. When she proposed making an event of the act, it made my decision even easier. I could invite others to make monetary donations to a cause close to my heart, our Del Ray Artisans’ Ted Eichers Memorial Art Scholarship Fund. Finally it was no longer about me!”

Theresa Kulstad, who did the cutting, reports: “Kathryn was both excited and nervous. I think that the audience actually helped her be brave. My experience has shown me over the years that there are those who truly agonize about getting haircuts and those who don’t. Kathryn has an intense relationship with her hair.

“Her hair cut began to feel like an amputation to her once we measured nearly 16 inches from before to after. At one point, one audience member offered to double her ante if Kathryn went 2 more inches. But after considering it in the mirror, Kathryn realized that she couldn’t go any further. Or as she put it, ‘I have already reached my “Oh my God!” factor.’

“With the ‘after’ photos and the positive remarks on how youthful she looked, Kathryn embraced the fresh look and was soon swinging her hair around her shoulders with a beautiful smile. She has since been seen around town still smiling and swinging it.”

The beneficiary of the over \$800 that has been raised is the Ted Eichers Memorial Art Scholarship Fund, which was established in 1998 by the Del Ray Artisans in honor of our former member and friend. Ted Eichers was an active DRA member. He grew up on a Minnesota farm, attended the University of Minnesota, served in the military, and worked at the Department of Agriculture for 29 years. Ted became interested in art after he retired and worked with wood veneers, creating scenes and compositions, which he exhibited at DRA. He proffered his art work and companionship to nursing home residents, inmates in jails and at-risk youth in Alexandria. He was a volunteer tutor with Alexandria and Arlington schools, as well as at shelters for the homeless and the Offender Aid and Restoration Program.



Theresa Kulstad (L), Kathryn Brown (R).

Photo by John Hiller

Since 2000, DRA has provided a scholarship to an art student graduating from T. C. Williams High School who is planning to attend college and continue his or her education in the art field. A committee of teachers selects the student best deserving of the scholarship. Each year the scholarship recipient is announced at the DRA-hosted Student Art Show, then presented with the scholarship by the Alexandria Scholarship Fund at their awards night, added to a memorial plaque which hangs at the DRA gallery, and given a one year membership in Del Ray Artisans.

DRA is happy to accept contributions, including memorial contributions, to the Ted Eichers Fund at any time. DRA is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, and all contributions to DRA are tax deductible. Checks should be made out to Del Ray Artisans with a note of your wishes to add to this fund. More information is on the web at <http://www.thedelrayartisans.org> or by calling the gallery at 703.838.4827.

## Amazing Del Ray-ce Teams are Clued In!

Del Ray was filled with teams "ray-ceing" through the neighborhood on June 6, frantically trying to answer all 94 clues in an hour and a half at the Amazing Del Ray-ce. Over 90 participants dashed about to win fabulous prizes provided by Ray-ce sponsors:



- Alexandria Hyundai
- La Strada Restaurant
- Mary Farrell, McEneaney Realtors
- Alexandria Picture Framing
- Artfully Chocolate/Kingsbury Confections
- Artfully Paper
- A Show of Hands
- Blueberry Art Gallery & Randall Blackburn
- Caboose Café & Bakery
- Greener Cleaner of Del Ray
- Curves of Del Ray
- DeCosta's Trophies
- Figaro Consulting
- Kevin Reilly of Alexandria Hyundai
- Mancini's Café & Bakery
- St. Elmo's Coffee Pub
- The Purple Goose
- Tracy Wilkerson, Mary Kay Independent Consultant and T2Graphics
- Love to Create, Stacy Rausch, Graphic Designer
- Tops of Old Town
- Virginia Commerce Bank
- YMCA Alexandria
- Yoga in Daily Life

### An "Amazing" Thank You is sent to the above sponsors!

The winning team of Jen Athanas & Stacy Rausch answered their way to First Prize, a \$75 gift certificate to La Strada, \$25 cash, and a recycled, embellished Trophy. Second Prize, \$25 gift certificates to both Caboose Café & Bakery and A Show of Hands, as well as a Trophy went to the team of Larry, Margo and Lea Williams and Hal, Camille and Owen Cardwell. Third Prize winners Theresa Kulstad, Tina Richardson, and Karen Petrakis received a \$25 gift certificate to Artfully Paper.

Raffle prizes, with items from the other sponsors, were also drawn during the dessert reception, which featured a delicious platter donated by Mancini Café & Bakery.

"Amazing" thanks to the Ray-ce team: David Kosar, Stacy Rausch, Carole DeLong, Jen Judd, Marie Koller, Lynn Schultz, Susi DuPuis, Margaret Slipek, Karen Schmitz, Kathryn Brown, Tracy Wilkerson, Jenn Clarke, Bill Gallagher, Lance Schultz, John Elliff, Marlin Lord, Peggy Ashbrook and Lynn Rusillo.

This fundraiser was jointly held with the Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden to benefit both organizations. DRA Chairman Barbara Boehm and Linda Elliff appreciated the support of Tracy Sullivan, Executive Director, LFH.

## Welcome New Members

**Paula Y. Bickham**  
Silver Patron

**Genevieve Lynn**  
Chinese brush painting

**Betty V. Plummer**  
"Plum Design"

**Magdalena P. Pinkowska**  
Photography

**Ann Marie Grills**  
Painting, Drawing

**Margaret Stanton Guryan**  
Painting, Drawing

## Illuminations Opens 8/7

The 2009 DRA Board Showcase is titled "Illuminations" and will feature the work of:

- Donn S. Grover, painted glass;
- Nora Partlow, floral displays and natural garden installations;
- Michele Reday Cook, oils, watercolors, sculpture;
- Christina Richardson, oils, sumi-e;
- Margaret Slipek, oils, watercolors;
- Jeanne Tiff, digital photography.

Please join us at the gallery for our opening reception on Friday, August 7th, from 7 to 10 pm.

Visit our gallery during the month of August and enjoy the art of this talented group. These artists have observed our world and "illuminated" it for you, through glass, camera lens, paintbrush, and, of course, the eye of the artist. The exhibit will feature changing natural displays, some of which will be captured in paintings and photographs.

Be sure to check our website for special events during August, as demonstrations and workshops on gardens, flowers and still life are planned.

The six artists exhibiting are all on DRA's Board of Directors and the co-curators for the exhibit are Michele Reday Cook and Jeanne Tiff.

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## Save this date: SATURDAY OCTOBER 17TH

### The UpBeat OffBeat Auction will be held at The Durant Center!

We now need help with the silent auction. We are looking for 100 art pieces to be donated for the silent auction part of the event. We need these pieces by September 1st so we can get the artist's name in the auction booklet.

Please contact Kurt at [kfpeterson@gmail.com](mailto:kfpeterson@gmail.com) if you would like to donate a piece, or help with collecting the art pieces and storage, or help display the art work in a two hour window before the event.

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## Our Town

Art in City Hall opens July 20th with a new show entitled "Our Town" featuring images of Alexandria or works about Alexandria. Receiving is July 18th in City Hall. Open to all DRA members. Please see Call for Entries in this newsletter or on our website.

### Get Your DRA Info More Directly

In case you didn't know, you can register at our homepage, [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org), to receive weekly DRA event announcements via email. This is a great way to stay informed about all our activities and any late-breaking news.

