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Home Life Style



“I’ve done all kinds of art, batiking, oil painting, beading, but I fell in love with fused glass ... now, I just can’t get enough of it.”

— Mary Ellen Larkins, warm glass artist

Vienna glass artist crafts in fused glass.

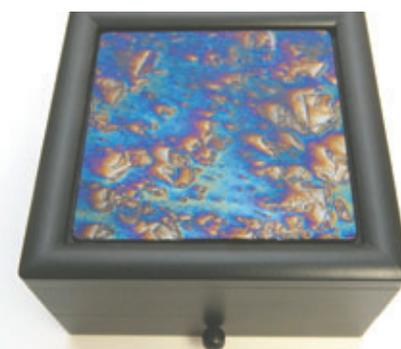
A Glimmer in Her Art

BY DONNA MANZ

In her Church Street home studio, glass artist Mary Ellen Larkins creates shimmering, vividly-hued fused glass jewelry, sculpted plates and display pieces.

“I’ve done all kinds of art, batiking, oil painting, beading, but I fell in love with fused glass in 1999, and now, I just can’t get enough of it.”

Larkins is what is known in the glass art community as a ‘warm glass’ artist.



A jewelry box is embellished with a glass lid.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION

Circle of Love
Rainbow Irid glass.
Custom made for a
wedding couple.



Mary Ellen Larkin at work in her home studio in Vienna. Larkin transformed a guest bedroom on the lower level into her glass studio.

She buys sheets of glass, cuts and shapes it, and fires it at temperatures up to 1,400 degrees. She has taken glass courses at the Corning glass studios in New York under world-renowned glass artists, and studied glass art in Italy this past May.

Over the past five years, Larkins has created thousands of pieces of jewelry ... pendants, earrings, bracelets and brooches. When she turned to display pieces and functional plates not long ago, she translated her moods and her feelings into the art. Throughout her Vienna home are bowls, plates and freeform pieces, many with memories attached.

Production of a single piece takes several days to complete. She allots one day to cutting the glass into its design, and another day firing it flat. In the final step of the display-piece process, Larkins fires the molded sculpted piece in the kiln



Mary Ellen Larkin



Pattern bar sushi plate fabricated in the Corning Glass Factory during a summer workshop.

once again. For jewelry, beading and wire-wrapping is the last stage.

Larkins’ studio houses one large kiln to fire her display pieces and three smaller kilns for jewelry.

Larkins’ finished pendants begin at \$20; earrings at \$13; wine bottles recycled into cheese platters are \$27; and plates begin at \$17.

Her work has been displayed and sold at juried art shows around the region, and at Damon Galleries, Vienna Vintner, and Meadowlark Gardens, all in Vienna.

Larkins was a graphic artist professionally before turning her attention to the fine arts. As con-

suming as her passion for glass art is, she makes time from her busy days to continue volunteer work.

A community activist, Larkins was Vienna Volunteer of the Year in 2003 and is co-founder of Northern Virginia Reptile Rescue. In her backyard, sheltered from the elements, are rescued box turtles.

“I never know what I’m going to do when I come down to the studio,” says Larkins. “I get inspired. Sometimes, I play creatively. Sometimes, I’m working really hard. But I love it.” Email Larkins at melarkins@verizon.net for information on shows and artwork.

Art in Glass

Local collectors showcase glass sculpture in their Oakton home.

BY DONNA MANZ

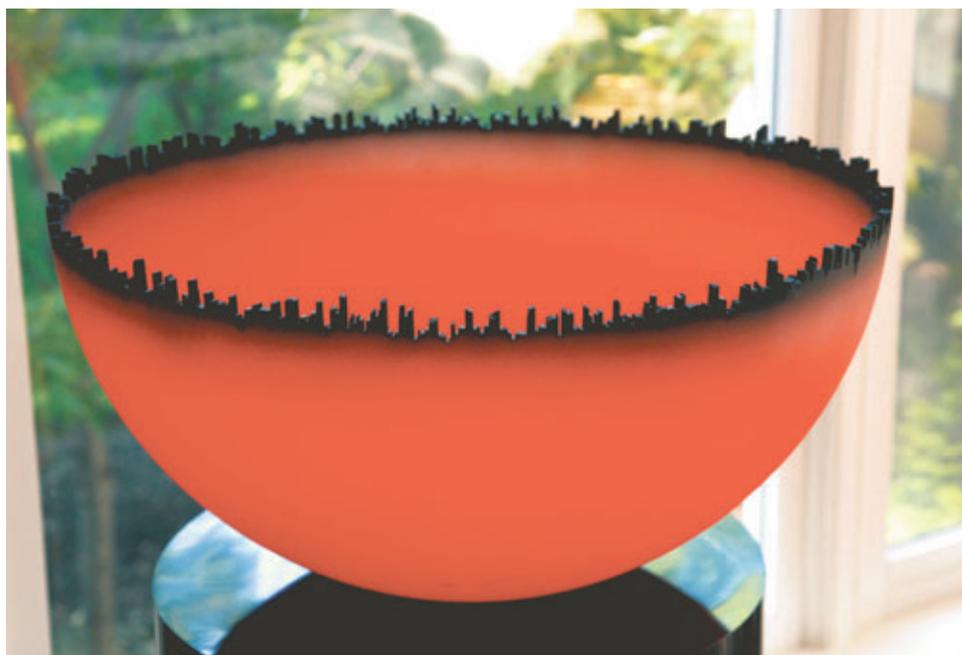
Interior designer Brigette Friedman and her husband Ron, an attorney, focus on their passion: glass sculpture.

Staged throughout their Oakton estate are one-of-a-kind glass art pieces, designed by some of the world's most renowned glass artists. Glass sculptures created by Dale Chihuly, Therman Statom, and Stanislav Libensky take center-stage within the home's grand foyer and the sitting room adjacent to it.

In unexpected places, rustic ceramic accents pop out against the more contemporary stylized museum pieces.

Brigette Friedman discovered an authentic 1889 Galle non-electrified two-piece lamp in an Argentina antique shop. The price for the pieces created by the artist who taught Tiffany was more than right, and the Friedmans brought the pieces home and updated them with lamp wiring. "Each piece is signed by Galle," said Friedman, pointing to lettering.

"I love doing design," said Brigette Friedman. "I



'Cityscape' by Jay Musler



Crystal horses by Swarovski.

designed almost all the detailing in this house."

In the sitting room off the foyer, an intensely hued freeform basin designed by glass art great, Dale Chihuly, holds a diversity of separate hand-blown glass shapes, a visual feast of richness



The Friedmans purchased a lamp by glass designer Galle while on a trip to Argentina.

and stimulation.

In the same room, against a wall, rests a glass ladder woven of intricate design and color, created by Therman Statom, an innovative African-American glass sculptor. Hidden lighting behind foyer pieces cast a glow



Ron and Brigette Friedman at their home in Oakton.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION



One of the works by Toots Zinsky.

through textures and colors.

"Feel this, but be careful," said Friedman. "The edging is sharp." Textured glass replicates glimmering fabric in a Toots Zinsky broad basket design, calling to mind shimmery moire. Rough

SEE GLASS, PAGE 9

Terry McAuliffe has thrown many fundraisers in the backyard of his McLean home.

Democratic Party

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Former Democratic National Committee chair Terry McAuliffe's home looks like it was built with political fundraising in mind.

McAuliffe, a close advisor of Bill and Hillary Clinton, has been soliciting big money for the Democrats for almost 30 years.

At 23 years old, he became finance director of former President Jimmy Carter's 1980 campaign. Last week, he embarked on an eight-city tour in Virginia for Democratic candidate Barack Obama.

A McLean resident, McAuliffe also opened up his home to the Dranesville Democratic Committee and hosted the local political party's annual fall fundraiser Sept. 29.

The political party bigwig said he is focused on getting the Democratic ticket elected this fall, but there is speculation McAuliffe, who has never held elected office, may run for governor of Virginia in 2009.

THE DEMOCRATIC fundraiser and his wife Dorothy moved from Capitol Hill to their century-old stone farmhouse off Old Dominion Drive 17 years ago, around the time their oldest child was born.

"We wanted to get a lot of land so the kids could run around,"



The guest/pool house at the McAuliffe's.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION



Dorothy McAuliffe talks with Karen and Dan DuVal.



Party host Terry McAuliffe.

said McAuliffe, who now has five children.

In addition to a sprawling backyard, McAuliffe has installed a pool, guesthouse, Jacuzzi, tennis and basketball courts on his property. The couple also

expanded the main house, adding at least two bedrooms and a modern kitchen.

All of the home additions match the architectural style of the original farmhouse. A similar gray stone was used to build the

stand-alone guesthouse. But McAuliffe maintained the 100 year-old wooden floor and door latches in the original part of the house – which includes his home office.

The family's architect,

SEE MCAULIFFE, PAGE 6

Shopping



Cherry with black glaze wine cabinet by K&H Cabinets. One of the many possibilities in kitchen design at Kitchen & Bath Factory Inc., 4624 Lee Highway, Arlington.



The Pig Pen Clay Pot and cookbook. Great for slow cooking soups and stews. Available at The Falls Hardware, 9912-A Georgetown Pike, Great Falls.



Betty Jane's Peanut Brittle. Made in Vienna by Betty Jane's daughter Bobbie and son-in-law John. Available at Maison Du Vin, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls and Out of Site Wines, 214 Dominion in Vienna and online at www.bettyjanessweetdelights.com

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION



Chef Michel Giaon



Chef Michel Giaon creates Parisian macarons in 10 classic flavors: French vanilla, chocolate, lemon, orange, pistachio, coffee, fresh mint, passion fruit, raspberry and caramel a la fleur de sel. Giaon bakes the pastries in Arlington and ships them around the country. Online purchases may also be picked up locally at the Artisan Confection Shop on Lee Highway in Arlington. For more information on ordering and monthly specials visit www.michelpatisserie.com or call 703-608-0255.

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6 McAuliffe

FROM PAGE 4

Bobby Gurney, works on several large homes in McLean and attended Catholic University with McAuliffe, said the political strategist.

“We went to undergrad together and had a relationship from school,” he said.

The home upgrades, particularly the pool area, have made the McAuliffe’s house ideal for hosting large parties.

“We mostly entertain outside. People tend to stay out here” said McAuliffe, at the Dranesville Committee party.

The McAuliffes have held fundraisers in their home for several candidates, including Sen. Barack Obama, former Sen. Tom Daschle, former U.S. Rep. Dick Gephardt, congressional candidate Judy Feder and Fairfax County chairman Gerry Connolly.

McAuliffe spent most of the last year raising money for New York Sen. Hillary Clinton’s campaign and said they threw several parties for the former first lady as well.

“We had a fundraiser for Hillary that went from 100 people to 500 people. ... My wife could have killed me,” said MacAuliffe.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/ CONNECTION

Finnegan finds a quiet place in the children’s game room



Terry McAuliffe signs a book at his desk in his home office.



A painting of an Indian hangs above the fireplace in McAuliffe’s home office. The painting was a gift from his wife Dorothy on the occasion of their marriage.



A newly added kitchen and family dining area opens out onto the garden and pool.



Samurai warriors hold vigil at the doors of the guest/pool house.



Del. Margi Vanderhye



Congressional candidate Judy Feder talks with Dorothy McAuliffe at the party.



State Sen. Janet Howell and Chairman of the Fairfax Board of Supervisors Gerry Connolly, who is running for Congress.



Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, Del. James Scott and Supervisor Sharon Bulova with Nadia Golding and Paula Larson.



Supervisor John Foust talks with Terry McAuliffe.

8 Of Kids and Kitchens

Oakton home designed with children in mind.

BY DONNA MANZ

Every personal need was considered in Anh Trinh Mai's 20-by-32-foot kitchen, particularly those of her children.

Along with two refrigerators, a six-burner double oven Wolf stove, a single-slab granite 5-by-8-foot island, and architectural detailing, there is also a stool for little people to stand on while preparing croissants, a television for children's programs, floor-level gliding snack baskets, and a screened-in sunroom for semi-al fresco dining.

"I used to do a lot of cooking and entertaining," said Mai. "Now, I'm getting back into entertaining, mostly with visiting family. We have a lot of extended family."



A single-slab, 5-by-8-foot island anchors Anh Trinh Mai's 20-by-32-foot kitchen.



Gleaming twin Subzero refrigerators are filled with after school snacks at a level for the children to have easy access.

Mai's kitchen was built by J.P. Brehony Homes of Vienna, and designed by Richard Forbes of Absolute Kitchens. Mai wanted built-in book shelves, but no desk area, feeling that a desk would detract from the family-friendly environment. Accent glass cabinetry shows off a China collection, and the spice door was custom-made.

Absolute Kitchens worked closely with Mai to design a kitchen that suited the family's lifestyle.

Finding a one-piece granite slab took Mai to Frederick, Md. At the far end of the kitchen, the table end, is a fireplace.

The twin Subzero refrigerators, standing sentry on either side of a doorway, serve different purposes within the family.

"My husband thought one refrigerator was all we needed. But I

don't think one is enough."

One element that Mai was adamant about was the stove ventilation system, insisting her Thermador exhaust fan vent to the outside. The builder, J.P. Brehony, constructed ductwork along a wall that channels the sucked-in air to the outside. "I don't have cooking smells in the house when the exhaust fan is on," said Mai.

Mai drew on feng shui influence when designing her kitchen. The stove was set in-place on a particular day and in a particular location. The home was blessed when completed. Anh Trinh Mai works in real estate settlement, her husband, in technology. Their home in Oakton is a retreat where all the elements, from a custom-crafted iron and wood staircase to jet-stained wood flooring, were carefully planned and brought to life.



Anh helps Maddie and Regan break open a package of croissants.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT/
CONNECTION

Off the kitchen, a sunroom connects to an open-air deck, both overlooking the backyard of their two-acre parcel of land.

"You need a screened-in porch," said Mai. "The kids love to eat in the sunroom."

Daughter Maddie loves croissants, and making them for breakfast is her specialty. It's a ritual that takes place several mornings a week in the Mai home.

Mai pulls a stepping stool up to the island and seven-year-old Maddie unrolls packaged croissant dough, teaching her five-year-old brother, Regan, the subtleties of croissant baking.

"I knew exactly what appliances I wanted, what cabinets, and even the hinges," said Mai. "We wanted open areas to give the room decorative interest."

"I have young kids. I wanted something accessible to children. This kitchen is for them, too."

Cooking at Home



Maddie and Regan prepare a snack of pigs in a blanket.

Glass

FROM PAGE 3

edging around the top gives the appearance of fringed fabric.

A formal chandelier, crafted of hundreds of Swarovski crystals, hangs from a soaring foyer ceiling. An electronic mechanism drops the chandelier to a lowered height for cleaning and bulb-changing.

Brigitte Friedman has “every annual that Swarovski has sold.” Miniatures celebrating the seasons, wildlife, and figures glitter.

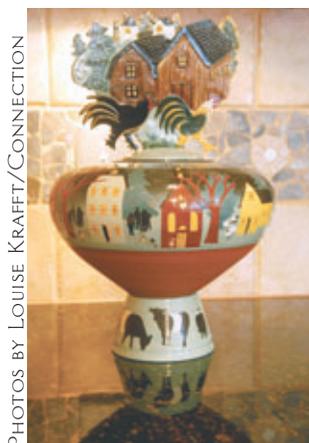
“There are so few of these very-limited edition Swarovski crystal horses, I had to win a contest to

get them,” said Friedman.

NOT ALL the art in the Friedman collection is glass. In a cozy entertaining niche is a numbered Italo Scanga print, gift to Ron Friedman. Original three-dimensional artwork is painted in striking detail in a lower-level dining area. The layout of the house, and the Viking appliances, reflect the entertaining lifestyle of the Friedmans.

“We love to cook Italian,” Ron Friedman said.

The art collection of one of Ron Friedman’s colleagues inspired the Friedmans to acquire museum glass art of their own.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION
Whimsical ceramics are featured throughout the chef's kitchen.



A glass ladder by Therman Statom.



'Confetti Persian' by Dale Chihuly.

Although the Friedmans purchased their first glass artwork 15 years ago, it has been over the past several years they have collected in earnest.

“We travel a lot,” said Brigitte Friedman. “And we pick up a lot of our art when we travel.

“When Ron retired, he wanted me to retire, too. So, I shut my business down about two years ago.

“I love designing, but now I do it mostly for myself and for friends.”

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Potter Laura Nichols.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION

A left turn off River Bend Road. Over a winding road until the pavement stops and the gravel begins.

Down over a bridge across a stream. Ascending up the hill a white house emerges from the pastoral landscape. Known at the farm as the Orchard House, it is now home to the Pig Pen Pottery Studio of Laura Nichols.

Hidden Springs Farm and the original manor house date back in the Dranesville records to the 1820s. Nichol's family purchased the property in 1939. Nichols has been working with clay for 30 or so years now.

"After my children were born I wanted something to do out of the house," Nichols recalled, "and that is when it began." Over the years, as some of the farm animals got old and died, some have been replaced, some not. Nichols still keeps a working hen house, horses, a flock of Guinea hens and a young peacock.

Great Falls Studio Tour

Pig Pen Pottery Studio is one of the 19 artist venues that will be on the fifth annual Great Falls Studios Tour Oct. 18-19. Great Falls Studios founded by Laura Nichols and a small group of other Great Falls artists in 2003, has grown in membership to include 78 area artists. The weekend show is free. At the 19 venues, 38 Great Falls artists will be demonstrating their creative processes. See www.GreatFallsStudios.com.

Nichols began working in clay after her children were born and wanted time out of the house. Nichols named her studio Pig Pen Pottery. As the studio is set on the farm where she lives, the name came from the only animal not raised on the property.



When the firing is complete, special tongs are used to remove the pots from the kiln. These tongs were made by the blacksmith at the Mount Vernon Estate.



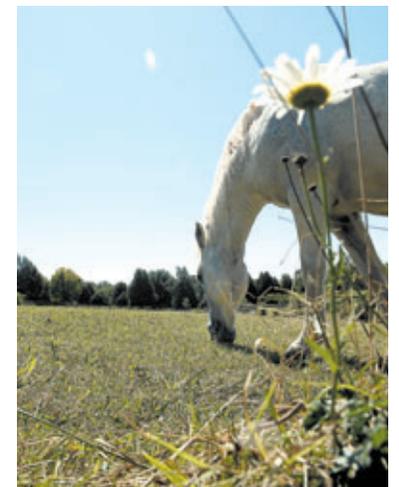
The material catch fire and start the post fire reduction process.

At the studio, Nichols teaches ongoing adult pottery classes and holds raku workshops. Her work is primarily in earthenware, stoneware and raku pottery.

— LOUISE KRAFFT



A brown hen strolls through the yard outside the hen house at the farm.



In the south pasture beyond the main house, Arthur nibbles at some grass in the late morning sun.

Sold: Million-dollar Homes

11



In Vienna, seven homes sold for more than \$1 million in August:

- ❖ 1650 WHITE PINE DR (5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) sold for \$1,600,000 on Aug. 27
- ❖ 516 CREEK CROSSING RD NE (5 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB) sold for \$1,525,000 on Aug. 22
- ❖ 2227 LAUREL RIDGE RD (6 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB) sold for \$1,415,975 on Aug. 07
- ❖ 1757 PROFFIT RD (4 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) sold for \$1,200,000 on Aug. 15
- ❖ 9446 BRENNER CT (4 BR, 3 FB, 1 HB) sold for \$1,098,000 on Aug. 20
- ❖ 9960 VALE RD (6 BR, 3 FB, 2 HB) sold for \$1,084,300 on Aug. 22
- ❖ 1291 DIFFICULT RUN CT (5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) sold for \$1,030,000 on Aug. 14



2600 Lasswade Lane sold for \$1,450,000 on Aug. 29



1650 White Pine Drive sold for \$1,600,000 on Aug. 27

In Oakton, four homes sold for more than \$1 million in August:

- ❖ 2600 LASSWADE LN (4 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) sold for \$1,450,000 on Aug. 29
- ❖ 10595 HANNAH FARM RD (4 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) sold for \$1,395,000 on Aug. 04
- ❖ 11698 DEERFIELD DR (6 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB) sold for \$1,055,000 on Aug. 8
- ❖ 11261 DEROSNEC DR (4 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB) sold for \$1,025,000 on Aug. 22

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- Clean inside microwave
- Clean range top
- Damp wipe cabinet doors
- Clean counters
- Hand wash floor
- Load dishwasher

All Rooms

- Pick up and straighten
- Dust sills, ledges, wall hangings
- Remove cobwebs
- Dust/vacuum furniture
- Vacuum floors, carpets
- Vacuum stairs
- Vacuum under beds
- Change linens, make beds
- Empty trash

Bathrooms

- Clean sinks, counters; change towels
- Clean, disinfect toilets, tubs, showers
- Hand wash, disinfect floors

Windows

- Clean entry window, one set of patio door windows
- Clean window over kitchen sink



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