



A letter from our Co-Founder and Executive Director, Albert LeCoff



Ray Leier's sudden passing was a wakeup call, and a great personal loss. At least he had enjoyed a night of eating and bowling with his wife Mikki... As an early gallerist, with the late Jan Peters at del Mano Gallery in California, Ray volunteered as an original member of the Center's organizing committee in 1986, then served as a trustee from 1988 – 2005. Bringing his knowledge and enthusiasm for artists and their work, Ray helped shape and promote the Center's programs. The gallery supported artists and informed potential buyers by consistently placing full page ads for del Mano exhibits in the Center's publication, Turning Points. For years, Ray and I enjoyed bringing new talent to each other's attention. It was a natural that Ray then developed a particular interest in the Center's Windgate ITE International Residency. He loved discussing the artists and their Before and After work. My wife, Tina, and I will surely miss seeing Ray at wood art events, such as CWA and AAW, and catching up on life and work.

Passed along from Marianne Hunter --

It is with tears and the heaviest hearts we let you know that Ray Leier of del Mano Gallery passed away last night. This will be a short message, as we are just coming to grips with the loss of a friend of so many decades...someone we grew up with.

So you know, Ray and Mikki were out having one of Ray's favorite meals and then went bowling. Ray felt over heated so Mikki was driving him to the hospital. Ray had a heart attack on the way and could not be revived.

Ray was a great friend...and ready to be a friend to anyone at the drop of a hat!