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***For Immediate Release:***

**2 pages**

**Chalkboard Desk Sculpture – A Family Collaboration  
School Daze Event Tickets On Sale**

The chalkboard desk sculpture is perhaps one of the most radical transformations of an old school desk created for the School Daze Public Art Project by the King and Queen Community Development Corporation. This contemporary sculpture was created by the Monk family – Suny, Joe, Chatham and Mavora Monk Donoghue. Old school desks from the historic Marriott School located in St. Stephens Church have been transformed into pieces of sculpture for the School Daze Public Art Project which will be auctioned as a fundraiser for the Marriott School Restoration Project in late March. Themes for the desk sculptures include a wide range from school related to quilting to aviation to river and wildlife.

The love of pottery and sculpture led the Monk family to cut their desk in half, thus splitting the desk to form a wedge leaving the pieces connected. The piece of the desk that serves as the writing space was turned into a chalkboard lined with various cut pencils. The chalkboard lined with pencils opens on a hinge so that the cubby area is functional as storage. This desk sculpture is intended to be a wall hanging that can also serve as a chalkboard. While Suny and Joe live in Amherst, they are no strangers to this area. Suny served as headmistress at Aylett Country Day School for 15 years and also served five years as the art teacher. Mavora currently works as the Director of Alumnae Relations at St. Margaret's School in Tappahannock and Chatham is a practicing artist living in Richmond. The arts and education come together in Joe's career as he is the head of the art department at Sweetbriar.

School Daze is a fundraiser for the Marriott School Restoration Project by the King and Queen Community Development Corporation (KQCD). The School Daze Gala Auction will take place on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at Aylett Country Day School in Millers Tavern from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. The auction of the desk sculptures will begin at 7 pm. The Marriott School Restoration Project is the planned renovation of the Marriott School into a community/cultural arts center for residents of King and Queen County and the Middle Peninsula.

Joe Mitchell's Band, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wave, will entertain guests with music of the 50s and 60s. The event's theme is "Come as you Were". Dress like you did in high school! Costume is optional. Door prizes will be given away and several raffle items will be available for drawings as well. Also included in the auction is a tour of the U.S. Capitol and lunch for four in the Capitol dining room with Congressman Rob Wittman. A variety of other raffle and auction items include horseback riding lessons, pottery, wine and cheese party for four at historic Norwood in Bruington, tours of the renovated Virginia State Capitol by Sen. McDougle and Del. Chris Peace and a day of fishing on private Mill Pond.

Thirteen local artists and groups participated by creating the desk sculptures. Buttons Boggs, Walkerton; K. Anne Careatti, Tappahannock; Ann Chenoweth, Bruington; Michael Martin, Bruington; The Monk Family - Suny, Joe, Chatham and Mavora, Amherst; Cecky Ropelewski, Walkerton; Alan Sader, Bruington; Dawn Shank, Walkerton; Karen Tootelian-Westermann,

West Point; Sewing Ladies of Walkerton, Jonathan Walsh, Aylett; Lawson-Marriott Elementary School and Central High School students.

Tickets are \$25 per person or \$40 for two and are on sale by calling 804-769-9656 or by visiting the website at [www.kqcd.org](http://www.kqcd.org). Tickets may also be purchased at the following locations: EVB Aylett Branch, EVB Main Office in Tappahannock, KQCD office in Walkerton, KQ Treasurer's Office at the Courthouse, and King William Pharmacy in Aylett. Tickets include admittance to the event, participation in the desk sculpture auction, hors d'ouvres, and one complimentary drink ticket. Cash Bar will be available. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Sponsors to date include: Ball Lumber, Country Courier, Design Printing, Inc., Eastern Virginia Bankshares, International Training, Inc., Scott's Store, West Point Glass, West Point Pharmacy and the Women's Club of King and Queen. Business sponsorships, at several levels, are available in support of the public art project. Ann Chenoweth, Elizabeth Christeller, Dawn Greggs and Dawn Shank serve on the Public Art Project Committee.

If you would like more information or would like to participate in or volunteer with the School Daze Public Art Project, please contact the KQCD office at 804-769-9656 or email [schooldaze@kqcd.org](mailto:schooldaze@kqcd.org). If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for the School Daze Public Art Project please contact KQCD. For more information about KQCD and the Marriott School Restoration Project, please visit [www.kqcd.org](http://www.kqcd.org).