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## Local photographers show that beauty is eternal

BY HELENE NEWBERG  
CORRESPONDENT

Women of all ages are welcome to experience a day of being treated like royalty in an individually-tailored photo session designed to bring out her "inner goddess." Diane Dalpe and Daphne Weld Nichols bring more than 25 years of experience to their Arlington business, Fantasy Photography.

"Mostly what we do is make people feel good about who they are, and bring out that essence, whatever that essence is," said Dalpe. "A majority of our clients are women, and for whatever reason: self-esteem, confidence, recapturing their youth, recapturing their man, keeping their relationship going, or whatever else: they've just lost weight, just turned 40... There are many different reasons in a person's life they'd want to look beautiful. They can look back at the photograph and say 'This was a wonderful time in my

life.'"

Working with kids, Nichols works to bring out the intimacy between mother and child. While her own daughter is now grown, she said, "I understand from a personal point of view about that bond and that connection. I take a lot of pleasure photographing that intimate connection between mothers and kids. It's love and I love love. I try to stay out of the way and let them interact."

The pair have also done father/child portraits.

Women who come for a session can bring their own clothes, jewelry, or accessories, although the studio has a well-stocked costume room with boas, lingerie, jewelry, and specialty clothing. For sessions with kids, they suggest bringing a selection of toys.

Nichols uses natural light, not strobes or other intimidating photographic equipment. She cited paintings in the Museum of Fine Arts, an

early childhood hangout, as her major influence, although she will also take inspiration for poses from elsewhere.

Creating a relaxed, supportive environment takes time. They typically schedule just one shoot per day and work by the roll of film (two rolls minimum, or 20 shots).

"We do the boudoir poses, professional portraits, or even just an elegant portrait," said Dalpe. "We have many modalities that we work with in a personalized session: we're both Reiki masters; Daphne is an astrologist; we do meditation with them; psychic readings; champagne. We do a lot of things to get them to the point where they feel good about who they are, which is important. Then we capture them (on film).

"For women, working hard and raising families, they seem to lose their sense of femininity or sensuality: in a relationship or just about themselves, never mind a relationship. This is

something that helps them recapture the moment. They can always look back and say 'Hey, that's me, I can look that way.' In a testimonial, a woman from Lexington said, 'I know all I have to do is drive down the street and go to Fantasy Photography and recapture that moment,' so it's really about feeling good about who you are, about feeling confident."

Professional photographers make tremendous gifts, they said, because the image is a gift both to the woman and to her partner. When a woman poses both with her child and then gets into some poses by herself, "The guy gets to look at these wonderful pictures of his wife and baby, then he gets to look at pictures that remind him of why he married her. And that, to me, is the perfect thing," said Dalpe.

The studio is located at 1122 Massachusetts Ave. More information can be found online: <http://www.fantasyphotography.com>, or by phone: 781-641-2100.



COURTESY PHOTO

An example of Fantasy Photography's work. Diane Dalpe and Daphne Weld Nichols try to bring out the "inner goddess" from their subjects.