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# RAAC Newsletter September 2014

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**Hello everyone,**

As much fun as I'm having in New Hampshire in the final days of August, I'm eager to get back to Rappahannock County, especially as I anticipate what's going on this fall. As you'll see in this month's newsletter, RAAC has assembled an exciting line-up of arts events. Kicking things off is our First Friday at the Movies, which is showing the clever blockbuster "American Hustle." Following on its heels is our Second Friday at the Library talk featuring Cliff Miller, a noted Rappahannock environmentalist and farmer. And not to be outdone, on Sep 19 & 20 the RAAC Community Theatre is presenting "Salt and Pepper," which explores aging with humor and poignancy.

I'm not a regular Facebook person, but I've visited the Artists of Rappahannock Facebook page - it's handsome and informative. If you haven't already, you can learn about the artists and the businesses sponsoring this year's Nov 1 & 2 Art Tour by [clicking here for the Facebook page](#) or by [clicking here](#) to visit our website.

Finally, I'd like to thank the hundreds of people who have (re)joined RAAC as members and who've made contributions. We've set records on all counts, which is gratifying because it's an important indicator of the community's support and high regard for the arts. As you know, we're a 100% volunteer organization, and everything we do and receive in donations is directed back into our community. Many, many thanks, and we hope to see you at the RAAC Annual Members party/picnic on Sunday, Sep 28!

**Matthew Black, President, RAAC**

# RAAC Newsletter

Vol. 2, #6

September 2014

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

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The Rappahannock Association  
for the Arts and the Community



Click on the arrow above to view the video.



**First Friday at the Movies  
"American Hustle"**

**Fri, Sep 5, 8pm, \$6  
at The Theatre At Washington  
291 Gay Street, Washington, VA 22747**

**Starring Christian Bale, Amy Adams,  
Bradley Cooper, Jeremy Renner,  
and Jennifer Lawrence  
Directed by David O. Russell  
Rated R, 138 minutes, drama**

A fictional film set in the alluring world of one of the most stunning scandals to rock our nation, "American Hustle" tells the story of brilliant con man Irving Rosenfeld (Christian Bale), who along with his equally cunning and seductive British partner Sydney Prosser (Amy Adams) is forced to work for rogue FBI agent Richie DiMaso (Bradley Cooper). DiMaso pushes them into a world of Jersey powerbrokers and mafia that's as dangerous as it is enchanting.

Jeremy Renner plays Carmine Polito, the passionate, volatile New Jersey political operator caught between the con-artists and Feds. Irving's unpredictable wife Rosalyn (Jennifer Lawrence) could be the one to pull the thread that brings their entire world crashing down.

*-by Sony Pictures Entertainment*

**Upcoming movies:**

- "The Grand Budapest Hotel," Oct 3, 8pm
- "Chef," Nov 7, 8pm

[Click to visit RAAC's Film page.](#)

**Second Friday at the Library  
Speaker Cliff Miller, farmer & environmentalist**

**Fri, Sep 12, 8pm, at the Rappahannock County Library**

The first speaker of the fall season is Cliff Miller, whose family has owned and farmed 845 acres surrounding Sperryville for nearly two hundred years. His talk will be a personal account of the changes he has made in the last 15 years in the way he farms, with the aim of continuing his family's stewardship of this land.

There have been significant changes in the way Miller deals with the Thornton River, which runs through his property, and with the way the fields, livestock, infrastructure, and wildlife are managed. We'll hear about how those changes have evolved, why he made them, how they have worked out and the trade-offs he has balanced.

A question and answer session follows the talk. Miller welcomes dissenting voices, in the hope of a lively and informative discussion.

The talk is free. All are welcome.



**Cliff Miller with guard donkey**

[Click to visit RAAC's Second Friday at the Library webpage.](#)



**The cast, left to right:  
John Lesinski, Mimi Forbes,  
Gary Grossman, Petrina Huston,  
Geoff Gowen, Barbara Black,  
Donna Chabot. Not pictured,  
Brendan Martyn.**

*Photo by Ray Boc*

## **RAAC Community Theatre "Salt & Pepper"**

**Fri, Sep 19 & Sat, Sep 20, 8pm  
310 Gay Street, Washington, VA 22747  
\$15 per person**

RAAC Community Theatre opens its busy fall schedule with "Salt & Pepper" by Santa Fe playwright Robert Benjamin.

" 'Salt & Pepper' is a gently provocative stage play about aging with grace, courage, and humor," says director Patty Hardee. "It consists of seven stories connected in theme, character, language, and action. I think audiences will easily relate to this play. The cast features actors from Rappahannock, Madison, and Culpeper counties."

The scenarios in the play bring characters together in situations both funny and poignant. There's the couple on their awkward first date after meeting in a bereavement group. In another scene, older newlyweds bicker while visiting the first wife's grave. And two friends meet at the Post Office, where waiting for "forever" stamps takes on a deeper meaning.

Playwright Robert Benjamin is a retired research physicist who now devotes his time to writing. "Salt & Pepper" has been produced in Santa Fe and New York. "Robert is working on a sequel that he hopes to have completed by early next year," says Patty. "If 'Salt & Pepper' is well-received here, I hope Robert will let us produce the sequel."

To reserve and pay for tickets, [click here](#). If you do not have internet access, call 800-695-6075.

### ***Upcoming performances:***

"No Ordinary Person," Fri, Oct 17 & Sat, Oct 18

"The Wizard of Oz," Dec 5, 6, 12, 13, 14

[Click to visit RAAC's Community Theatre webpage.](#)

## RAAC annual members party/picnic

**Greenfield Farm, Sep 28, 4-6pm**

RAAC's annual membership picnic will be held this year at the historic Greenfield estate, the home of our gracious hosts Alfred and Audrey Regnery. The address is 30 September Song Lane, Washington, VA, located on Route 522/211 near St. Peter's Church.



Mandalele will be performing. RAAC will provide libations and an entree; members bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share.

Prospective members are welcomed!

Not a member of RAAC? You can learn how to join by clicking the link below.

[Click to visit RAAC's Membership webpage.](#)



## Artists of Rappahannock Studio & Gallery Tour Featuring artist Christina Leigh

Join us November 1 & 2 and help us celebrate the 10th annual Art Tour. In this newsletter we continue to introduce you to some of our artists new to the Tour.



Artist Christina Leigh uses the classical media of traditional charcoal, graphite, and oil pastel to meld layers of light and lush color and capture the moments of serendipitous accidents found in her photography.

Other new artists this year include Ben Mason (multimedia), Matthew Black (photographer), and Darien Reece (painter/multimedia).

**"Ex-spouse and Mother," top;  
"Ex-spouses,"  
bottom.**

Artist Christina Lee  
*Oil pastel on paper*

We have over 50 artists represented on the Art Tour, so come and explore!

[Click to visit RAAC's Art Tour page.](#)

## **Mitchell Fund**

*For the children, the play's the thing . . .*

This summer a grant to the Child Care and Learning Center (CCLC) from RAAC's Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund allowed 25 school-age theater arts campers to see "The Little Mermaid, Jr" at The Winchester Little Theatre and "Mary Poppins" at the Shenandoah University Summer Music Theater.

These professional performances inspired the kids and helped set the standard for their own live production of "The Frog Princess." The children (pictured at right) built their own sets, developed speaking parts, costumes, and make-up. They performed their play for the children and parents at CCLC.

*RAAC's Mitchell Fund offers grants to emerging and established artists of all ages, arts organizations, art programs within community-based organizations, collaborative projects, and especially to programs with a community focus.*

[\*Click to visit RAAC's Mitchell Fund webpage.\*](#)





### **Meet Ralph Bates, RAAC's new fiscal vice-president**

Ralph Bates is RAAC's newly elected fiscal vice-president. He retired and relocated to Huntly about 7 years ago, where he quickly became active in community nonprofit organizations.

In Rappahannock and before joining the RAAC Board in 2013, Ralph served for five years on the RAAC Theatre Committee, was stage manager for three Christmas Plays, and was a narrator in "Under Milkwood." He currently manages the Theatre facility, which has undergone improvements to lighting, heating/cooling, reduction of clutter, and improved storage of costumes. He was on the Board of Belle Meade School and serves currently on the Headwaters Board and Krebsler Fund Advisory Board.

Prior to his move to Rappahannock, Ralph successfully ran his management consulting firm for 30 years from Annandale. Ralph focused on leadership development and coaching, organizational change, and long-term planning with Fortune 500, federal, international, and small business clients.

For five years he closed his business to join an international IT and business consulting firm (AMS) in Fairfax. He became a VP and Chief Learning Officer to build and establish a corporate university in 2000.

From 1964 to 1975 he worked largely with the Peace Corps as a volunteer in Colombia, as a manager/developer of their programs in Costa Rica and later Central America. He also served as a consultant in Latin America under the US Agency for International Development. He has two master's degrees and has been adjunct faculty at American University, Johns Hopkins, and Georgetown.

Ralph is fluent in Spanish, helps his wife Gwen with her gardens, builds and maintains his rock gardens, and is a frequent volunteer for "honey do" items.

*[Click to visit RAAC's website.](#)*

### **Mark Your Calendar!**

**For all the details, additions, and  
schedule changes, visit [RAAC's calendar](#).  
New events are added frequently, so please check often.**

**[www.raac.org](http://www.raac.org)**

**The Rappahannock Association for the Arts and the Community**  
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Washington, VA 22747

1-800-695-6075

RAAC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization staffed solely by volunteers.  
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