
RAAC Newsletter June 2015



Hello friends,

Our June newsletter is full of exciting announcements. As you'll see, RAAC's Mitchell Arts Fund is awarding over \$33,000 to 18 Rappahannock artists and organizations. It was a very competitive process this year - nearly twice as many applicants asked for more than twice as much funding compared to 2014. Total awards this year represent a 50% increase over last year! I'm thrilled with the diversity and quality of art-making in the county, and RAAC is so pleased to encourage even more.

In other breaking news, the RAAC-Castleton Art Competition announces 10 finalists for the invitational to celebrate music through the visual arts. The grand winner, Patricia Underwood, and four adult and five student finalists will be exhibited at the Middle Street Gallery. The opening reception is Jun 20, and you're invited.

On Jun 27, a cabaret evening of contemporary music will be performed at The Theatre at Washington - a special fundraiser for RAAC's Community Theatre. Brought to us from NYC by Michael Shea, this show uses music to highlight life's journey of opening up to possibilities and finding our place in the world.

RAAC takes a summer recess to recharge, plan, and prepare for our fall programs. First Friday at the Movies and the Second Friday at the Library series resumes in September. In the meantime, we're busy getting ready for the annual Art Tour. You can stay in touch by going to RAAC's newly redesigned website at www.raac.org.

Finally, thanks to you who joined and supported RAAC during our winter/spring membership drive and the May 5 Give Local Piedmont. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and underlies RAAC's success in building community through the arts.

Matthew Black, President, RAAC



RAAC Newsletter

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Open auditions for "The Odd Couple"

RAAC Community Theatre

Sat, Jun 13 & Sun, Jun 14, 2-4pm both days

310 Gay St, Washington VA 22747

"The Odd Couple," one of Neil Simon's funniest and best-loved plays, features neatnik Felix Ungar, slob Oscar Madison, their equally funny poker buddies, and the dim-but-cute Pigeon sisters who live upstairs.

RAAC Community Theatre will hold open auditions at the theatre for six male roles and two female roles. Auditions will be readings from the script, which will be provided. Performances will be Mar 25, 26, and 27, 2016. Yes, 2016! There will be a few read-throughs during this summer, with rehearsals beginning in earnest in early Jan 2016.

For more information, contact director Patty Hardee at 540-675-2506 or pahardee@gmail.com.

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

**RAAC Community Theatre benefit/fundraiser
Michael Shea in
"My Analyst Told Me"**

**Sat, Jun 27 at 8pm
The Theatre at Washington
291 Gay Street, Washington, VA 22747
Tickets \$20**

Save the date for a cabaret evening of contemporary music. Michael Shea, Washington D.C. psychotherapist and cabaret performer, with piano accompanist Jeff Hamlin, bring "My Analyst Told Me" from New York City to Rappahannock as a special fundraiser for the RAAC Community Theatre. Shea performed an evening of cabaret music to benefit RAAC several years ago, singing for a packed and very enthusiastic audience.

The show highlights the process of self-awareness from the viewpoint of a psychotherapist. The show's title comes from the fabulous yet challenging Jon Hendricks/Annie Ross tune of the same name, made famous by Joni Mitchell.

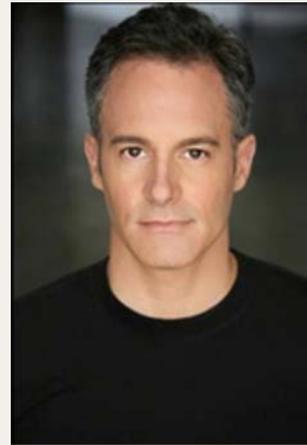
As noted in the [review in BroadwayWorld.com](#), "Shea and Hamlin blended beautifully . . . The show's thoughtful sequencing of songs allowed Shea to narrate the humbling work of witnessing vulnerability and the journey of opening to possibilities. . . activating the imagination . . . acceptance . . . co-creating dreams, and finally, finding a place in the world."

Many thanks to the Theatre at Washington for generously donating the use of the space for this fundraiser.

For reservations, [click here](#). If you don't have Internet access, call 1-800-695-6075. Tickets will also be available at the door.

[Click here for YouTube videos of Shea and Hamlin in concert.](#)

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





2015 Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund grants awarded

RAAC is pleased to announce 18 grants to Rappahannock artists and organizations. In keeping with the vision of the Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund, the grants reward and encourage county organizations that are working to foster the arts in Rappahannock and local artists of all ages.

This year's grants include a diversity of educational and performance projects, a variety of media, emerging and established artists, professional and institutional development, arts programs within community-based organizations, and collaborative projects.

"It was a very competitive process this year, with many excellent proposals!" reports RAAC Board President Matthew Black, who also serves on the Mitchell Fund committee. "We received nearly twice as many applications and were asked for more than twice as much funding as last year." Of the many worthy applications that were received, the following are recipients of this year's Mitchell Fund grants totaling \$33,240 and ranging from \$500 to \$3,600.

- 1000 Faces Mask Theater for production assistance with their public performance in October at Stone Hill
- Rappahannock 4H for a summer film-making workshop and school-year film club
- Castleton Festival for summer programs with Rappahannock students
- Child Care Learning Center (CCLC) for children's music, writing, and theater programs
- Headwaters for grades 2-7 mosaic project at RCES, plus field trips to DC
- Hearthstone School for a community art gallery for student and adult work
- Joystream Camp/Lisa Leftwich for scholarships to summer guitar camp and training at Augusta Heritage Center
- Mountainside Dance Center for dance scholarships for young students
- RCHS Band Boosters for student scholarships for instrumental & vocal lessons, plus assistance to band director in studio/master classes
- Paul Reisler/Kid Pan Alley for script editing and production assistance in developing the Kid Pan Alley musical "Bouncin"
- Kerrie Mullany & Darien Reece for a mural project for RappCats by county students
- Sheila Lamb for assistance at summer writer's residency at VCCA
- Virginia Pates for a kiln to work with local clays & minerals
- Wendi Sirat for a series of Community Drum Circles at the RAAC Community Theatre
- Clive Pates for creating new work focused on Rappahannock County & the Piedmont
- Forrest Marquisee for song-writing lessons with Paul Reisler
- KC Bosch for producing art books combining his photography and poetry
- Michael Pollack for professional production of a CD of the music of Kiaya Abernathy

The Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund is RAAC's primary channel for offering financial support to the arts in Rappahannock. Since 2012, RAAC's Mitchell Fund has awarded almost \$70,000 to the community. It was established with a bequest from the estate of Claudia Mitchell, RAAC's president for many years and a dedicated supporter of the arts and community. The Fund continues to grow through ongoing donations, fundraising events, and income generated by RAAC programs, principally the annual Art Tour.

To learn more or to make a direct contribution to the Fund, visit RAAC's website (link below).

[Click to visit RAAC's Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund webpages.](#)

**RAAC-Castleton Art Contest
winners announced
Jun 20 reception - meet the artists**

RAAC and Castleton Festival are happy to announce the ten winners of our invitational competition that celebrates music through the visual arts.

The grand winner is - Patricia Underwood! Her linocut, Etude #4, is pictured here and will be featured on the cover of the 2015 Castleton Festival program guide.

In addition, there were four adult and five student finalists who were selected by the judges. The winning adults are Barbara Heile, Jo Levine, Margot Neuhaus and Darien Reece. The winning students are Claudia Barnes, Sara Garcia, Renee Jenkins, Alyssa Rogers, and Alisha Stanley. Congratulations to all!

The winning artwork will be on exhibit at Middle Street Gallery from Jun 19 through Jul 26. **The opening reception for the show will be Sat, Jun 20, 3-5pm at the Middle Street Gallery. Come and meet the artists!**

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





Film Festival report & call for volunteers

The first annual Film Festival at Little Washington was a resounding success, and the Rappahannock community responded with great enthusiasm and requests for a continuation of the event.

From the opening reception on Friday evening to the last filmmaker Q&A on Sunday afternoon, moviegoers were treated to entertaining and provocative films produced or directed by talented local filmmakers.

Stay tuned for updates on next year's film festival program. **For volunteer opportunities**, call 800-695-6075.



Photos: filmmaker Q&A (top); producers Jeremy Tooley and Jesse Von Fange (bottom)

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

First Friday at the Movies seeks volunteers

First Friday at the Movies just wrapped up another successful year, showing 8 award-winning, first-run films.

Sincere thanks are extended to departing volunteer Margaret Brown, who, for over nine years, diligently managed the acquisition and promotion of every film. She will be missed.

The RAAC Movie Committee is gearing up for the next season beginning in September. **Volunteers are needed** to help sell tickets, make popcorn, and sweep up after films. Contact movies@raac.org to volunteer.



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



RAAC membership drive & Give Local Piedmont results

Membership is at an-time high of 311 member households, which translates into 500 or more individual members of RAAC. We've received over \$28,000 in contributions, including a surge of \$4,235 from 36 households during the Give Local Piedmont campaign.

Many thanks to all of you new and continuing members who support the varied arts programs and events offered by RAAC to our community. RAAC is an all-volunteer organization.

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

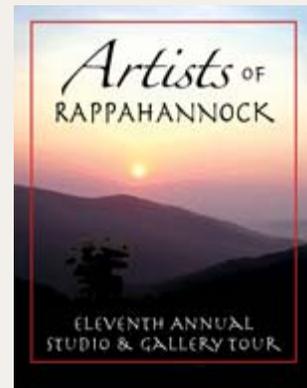
**Art Tour
seeks graphics artists**

The Artists of Rappahannock Studio & Gallery Tour committee is **looking for volunteers** to help produce and place ads for this year's Art Tour, scheduled for November 7 & 8.

Come join the (always fun!) Art Tour committee and put your skills to good use for this worthy cause. We're looking for folks with experience using Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator, and Acrobat Pro. If you don't have this software already, RAAC would consider acquiring it.

If interested, please contact Heather Wicke at hwicke@comcast.net or Nancy Raines at nanhraines@gmail.com.

[Click to visit the Art Tour's webpages.](#)





Meet Pat Burke RAAC Board member

Pat Burke's career in the arts spans over 40 years, beginning in 1971 with her graduation from University of Denver. Following graduation, she essentially became the exhibit director, conservator, collections manager, and educator all rolled into a staff of two at the Longmont Pioneer Museum in Colorado. Even with a small collection and limited resources, she was able to garner overwhelming community support. Her belief in meticulous management and organization proved to be critical in the museum world.

Opportunity in Washington, DC catapulted Pat into the national arena of the Smithsonian Institution as a graphics manager and expanded her interests to include object conservation as well as mentoring young professionals.

As the result of a family move to San Francisco, Pat joined the staff of the California Academy of Sciences, becoming the director of exhibits. While there, she developed dozens of exhibitions including a major traveling exhibition about the Hopi that opened the door to over 20 major collections throughout the country. Simultaneously, she co-produced visual materials on Hopi culture while studying at the Anthropology Film Center in Santa Fe.

Through the lens of film she learned to appreciate the dynamism of Native American culture and its traditions as they are perpetuated in a living, breathing life style. She realized early on the need for untiring attention to detail demanded by the creative process; from editing, research accuracy, building relationships, to raising funds. Her passion for film making grew exponentially and was rewarded with awards for ethnographic film, and she was invited to become a board member of the National Educational Film and Video Festival.

Pat returned to the Smithsonian Institution in 1988 as the Director of Exhibitions at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum. There she was able to apply her accumulated managerial, museum, and material culture expertise with her graphic and exhibition design skills.

Moving to Rappahannock in 2002 with her husband, Walter Sorrell, Pat has carried her belief in the value of cultural experiences from the urban world to the rural setting of Rappahannock County. Since joining the RAAC Board in 2011, she became the first chair of the Mitchell Fund in 2012 and most recently the co-chair of the first RAAC Film Festival at Little Washington.

[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

Rappahannock Association for Arts and Community

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1-800-695-6075

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

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