

# RAAC Newsletter September 2015



## Hello!

The fall arts season starts early this year - with the highly acclaimed "The Imitation Game" on Sep 4, followed quickly by the Second Friday at the Library series when Diane Trister Dodge will share some of her insights into early childhood development and education. Next up, Sep 13 is the first of three community drum circles led by Wendi Sirat, a Mitchell Arts Fund recipient. The month crescendos with "The Gin Game," performed by two of Rappahannock's finest actors at the RAAC Community Theatre on Sep 25-26 - tickets are going fast! And that's just September!

Looking ahead to early October, we're teaming with the Scrabble School Preservation Foundation and the Rappahannock Historical Society on Oct 2 to co-sponsor the showing of "Selma" at our First Friday at the Movies. Net proceeds will go to support SSPF and its educational programs. And on Sun, Oct 4, 11am-2pm, we're hosting our RAAC Members' Annual Picnic. Please save the date.

A new feature in this issue of the RAAC Newsletter is "Art Beat Rappahannock," an ongoing listing of local arts events that *aren't* sponsored by RAAC. After all, part of our mission is to promote the arts in all of Rappahannock!

Finally, if you haven't already, please become a sponsor of this year's Artists of Rappahannock Studio & Gallery Tour, which will be held Nov 7-8. Sponsorship details are included in our recent mailing to RAAC members and are also available on the RAAC website by [clicking here](#). Our sponsorship campaign ends this month. Net proceeds from the Art Tour are channeled back into the community.

**Matthew Black, President, RAAC**



## *RAAC Newsletter*

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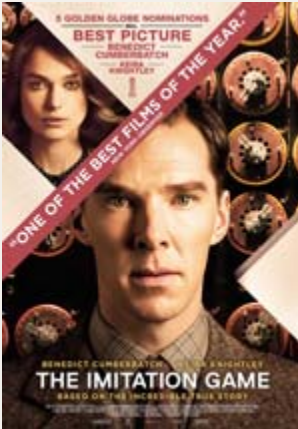
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Click on the arrow above to view the video.



**First Friday at the Movies  
"The Imitation Game"**

**Fri, Sep 4, 8pm, \$6  
The Theatre At Washington  
291 Gay Street, Washington, VA 22747**

**Starring Benedict Cumberbatch,  
Keira Knightley, Matthew Goode  
Directed by Morten Tyldum  
Written by Graham Moore, Andrew Hodges  
Biography/drama/thriller; 114 minutes  
Rated PG-13 for some sexual references,  
mature thematic material  
Awards: won Academy Award for Best Writing;  
multiple other award nominations**

In 1939, newly created British intelligence agency MI6 recruits Cambridge mathematics alumnus Alan Turing (Benedict Cumberbatch) to crack Nazi codes, including Enigma - which cryptanalysts had thought unbreakable. Turing's team, including Joan Clarke (Keira Knightley), analyzes Enigma messages while he builds a machine to decipher them. Turing and team finally succeed and become heroes, but in 1952, the quiet genius encounters disgrace when authorities reveal he is gay and send him to prison.

Based on the real life story of legendary cryptanalyst Alan Turing, the film portrays the nail-biting race against time by Turing and his brilliant team of code-breakers at Britain's top-secret Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park during the darkest days of World War II.

*Fall films: Oct 2 "Selma" (fundraiser) and Nov 6 "Inside Out"*

*Click to visit RAAC's First Friday at the Movies webpage.*

**Second Friday at the Library  
Diane Trister Dodge, educator**

**Fri, Sep 11, 8pm, at the Rappahannock County Library**

Diane Trister Dodge, one of the leading figures in the field of early childhood education, is going to lead off the new season for us. She's worked all over the world - in Mississippi, in the earliest days of the Head Start program, in the Middle East, and in Rappahannock!

Dodge has been a weekend resident of Slate Mills since 1976 and is on the board of the CCLC. She'll tell us about what she has learned in her long career and how the learning center uses her innovative teaching program.



For the speaker's expanded bio, [click here](#).

***The talk is free. All are welcome.***

*Click to visit RAAC's Second Friday at the Library webpage.*



## RAAC Community Theatre

### "The Gin Game"

**Fri, Sep 25 & Sat, Sep 26 at 8pm**

**310 Gay Street, Washington, VA 22747**

**Tickets \$15**

In this Pulitzer Prize-winning play, Weller Martin (Andy Platt) and Fonsia Dorsey (Joyce Abell), elderly nursing home residents, strike up an acquaintance. Over a series of games of gin rummy they talk about their families and their lives outside the nursing home. Gradually, each conversation becomes a battle, ruining their brief friendship.

The RAAC production is directed by Mike Mahoney, who also directed Andy and Joyce in the RAAC production of "Driving Miss Daisy" in 2012. PLEASE NOTE: The play contains strong language.

The original production of "The Gin Game," written by Donald Coburn, opened on Broadway in Oct 1977 and ran for 517 performances. It was directed by Mike Nichols and starred the married couple Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy.

### "No Ordinary Person"

**Fri, Oct 23 & Sat, Oct 24 at 8pm**

**310 Gay Street, Washington, VA 22747**

**Tickets \$15**

This year's performance features three of our Rappahannock neighbors: Paul McGeough, an Irish Australian journalist and senior foreign correspondent for The Sydney Morning Herald, specializing in Middle Eastern affairs; musician Paul Reisler, Founder and Artistic Director of Kid Pan Alley; and former Ambassador Jane Coon. All three performers will appear both nights. "No Ordinary Person" is directed by Joyce Abell and Sallie Morgan.

**To reserve and pay for tickets [click here](#).** If you do not have Internet access, reservations can be made by calling 1-800-695-6075.

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

## "Selma"

**A fundraiser to benefit  
The Scrabble School Preservation Foundation**

**Fri, Oct 2, 7pm, \$10 adults, \$5 children  
The Theatre At Washington  
291 Gay Street, Washington, VA 22747**

**Starring David Oyelowo, Carmen Ejogo,  
Tim Roth, Jim France, Oprah Winfrey**

**Director Ava DuVernay**

**Written by Paul Webb**

**Biography/drama/history; 128 minutes**

**Rated PG-13 for disturbing thematic material,  
including violence, a suggestive moment,  
and brief strong language**

**Awards: Won over 45 awards and 69 nominations**

### **About this fundraiser:**

The movie showing is co-sponsored by The Scrabble School Preservation Foundation, the Rappahannock Historical Society, and RAAC. Funds raised during the "Selma" screening will help support the Foundation's public and school outreach programs.

Introducing the film will be Dr. Hortense Hinton Jackson, noted educator and former provost of the Manassas campus of Northern Virginia Community College. A native of Culpeper, Dr. Hinson has served on numerous boards and is past president of the local chapter of the NAACP.

### **About the movie:**

This acclaimed film chronicles the tumultuous three-month period in 1965, when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led a campaign to secure equal voting rights in the face of violent opposition. The epic march from Selma to Montgomery culminated in President Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, one of the most significant victories for the civil rights movement. For extensive information about the movie, [click here](#).

### **About Scrabble School:**

Built in 1921, Scrabble School is one of more than 5,000 schools built across the South thanks to the leadership and beneficence of Sears Roebuck co-founder Julius Rosenwald and the African-American educator and leader Booker T. Washington. So few Rosenwald Schools remain that in 2003 the National Trust for Historic Preservation listed them among America's "most endangered places."

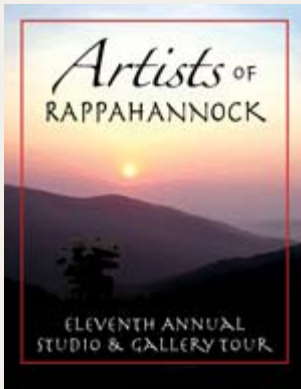
The Washington Post published a lengthy article on Rosenwald schools on Aug 31, 2015 that includes information on Scrabble School and two of its former students, Lillian Aylor and Irene Timbers. [Click here](#) to view the article.

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



Click on the arrow above  
to view the movie trailer.





**Art Tour gearing up!  
Nov 7 & 8**

Preparations and publicity plans are underway for RAAC's 11th annual Artists of Rappahannock Studio & Gallery Tour. A total of 21 artists' studios (including three new studios) and eight galleries will represent more than 55 artists.

The new venue for this year's Tour Headquarters is the Washington School auditorium, 567 Mt. Salem Ave. The building will provide expanded space for art exhibits and room for larger crowds.

So mark your calendars for the first full weekend in November and come enjoy the beautiful fall countryside as you visit our acclaimed local artists.

*Click to visit RAAC's Art Tour webpages.*

**Art Beat Rappahannock**

*\*\*Featuring non-RAAC arts events in Rappahannock County\*\**

- Sep 5, 6, **Gadino Cellars**, 2-5:30pm, Mandalele Trio, music.  
*Click for more information.*
- Sep 11, **Griffin Tavern**, 8pm, Dubious Brothers!  
Sep 18; 8pm, Ted Hefco & the Thousandaires  
Sep 25, 8pm, Madonnas in a Field  
*Click for more information.*
- Sep 12, **Middle Street Gallery**, 3-5pm, Reception for Wayne Paige Show (with mini shows by Susan Raines, Jo Levine, and Joan Wiberg). *Click for more information.*
- Sep 13, **Narmada Winery**, 1-4pm, Aubrey Driggers, music  
Sep 20, 1-4pm, Martha Capone, music  
Sep 27, 1-4pm, Wait N See, music  
*Click for more information.*
- Sep 19, 8pm, "The Taming of the Shrew"  
Sep 20, 3pm, "The Taming of the Shrew"  
**Theatre at Washington, Va**  
play performed by the  
Cambridge American Stage Tour  
Sep 26, 8pm, North Sea Gas, Scottish folk band  
*Click for more information.*
- Sep 20, **Castleton Festival**, 4pm, Shannon Gun and the Bullettes, Jazz band. *Click for more information.*



*Check the event sponsor's website for any late changes or cancellations!*

*To submit an event, email [artbeat@raac.org](mailto:artbeat@raac.org).*

*Click to visit RAAC's website.*





### **Mitchell Arts Fund 2015 grantee updates**

Supported by a 2015 Mitchell Fund grant, **Lisa Leftwich** (*top photo, back*) **attended Vocal Week this summer at the Augusta Heritage Center** on the campus of Davis & Elkins College in Elkins WV. She studied American duet singing and complex harmonies with old time stars Emily Miller and Suzannah Parkgroup (*top photo, front*). Lisa was inspired by her study with Grammy-award-winning Rhiannon Giddens and with opera legend Charlie Williams in vocal technique.



*Watch for an announcement of a free community singing circle led by Lisa later this year at the RAAC Community Theatre.*

All are welcome to join in a **series of Community Drum Circles facilitated by Wendi Sirat** at the RAAC Theatre and sponsored by RAAC's Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund. Community Drum Circles (*bottom photo*) are fun, family friendly, interactive events in which the participants show up as individuals and, with a bit of guidance and facilitation, end up creating music together like a spontaneous community orchestra. Drum circles stimulate coordination, cooperation, self-expression, listening skills, team building, and stress reduction for school groups, "at risk" children, nursing homes, corporate offices, and community events around the world.

*Scheduled for Sundays, Sep 13, Oct 17, and Nov 14 from 7 to 8:30pm.* The drum circles are free of charge and open to everyone regardless of age or experience. There will be lots of drums and percussion instruments to share . . . or bring your own. Attend just one . . . or come to all three!

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

## **Rappahannock County Farm Tour & Festival Sep 26 and 27**

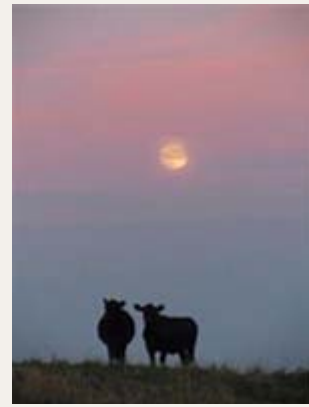
The 2015 Rappahannock County Farm Tour & Festival, scheduled for the last weekend in September, will showcase around 30 farms, wineries, and ag-related businesses in a self-guided tour that takes you from one end of our beautiful county to another.

You'll see family homesteads, sheep and cattle operations, family-run wineries, a distillery, historic homes, producers and vendors of artisanal food and beverages, a school, beloved country stores, and orchards that have produced fruit for generations.

In addition, there's an Artisans Market on the green adjacent to the Rappahannock County Visitors Center, located just east of the Town of Washington right on Highway 211.

Take advantage of this opportunity to travel winding country lanes, meet new people, and visit new places as we celebrate all that is extraordinary in our lives in Rappahannock.

[Click to visit the Rappahannock County Farm Tour's website.](#)



### **Meet Heather Wicke RAAC Board member**

Heather Wicke is the newest member of the RAAC Board and a weekender for about nine years. She and her husband Bob Hurley discovered the beauty and wonder of the county ten years ago after looking for a replacement for their cabin in West Virginia. They bought a home on High Hill Lane near Massie's Corner planning to spend weekends initially and increasingly spending more time in the community.

During the past several years, with work and family obligations in DC and Arlington lessening, Heather and Bob have begun to get more involved with Rappahannock's good life and wonderful people.

Heather has a PhD in Natural Resources and spent her work career with various government and nonprofit organizations including the Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab, US Senate Environment Committee, Environmental Law Institute, Piedmont Environmental Council, and the National Wildlife Federation. She and Bob have two daughters who both work in DC in environment-related policy jobs.

Heather was delighted to become the co-chair with Nancy Raines of the upcoming 2015 Art Tour and has had more fun helping to prepare for that event than she ever anticipated. She has always been interested in the arts and has taken classes in Arlington and Alexandria with the goal of developing her own artistic style. Her initial work is a series of oil paintings of colorful Hubble Telescope images, and she is now moving into mixed media abstract painting.

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



**RAAC Members' Annual Picnic  
Oct 4**

Our annual members' picnic is scheduled for Sun, Oct 4, 11am-2pm, at the beautiful home of Barbara and Chris Wall.

Join us, and you'll be able to walk right into this painting by Kevin Adams. Directions to the Wall's house, off of Fodderstack Road, will be published in the October RAAC Newsletter.



Enjoy a yummy BBQ lunch prepared by Etlan Barbecue, listen to live music, have fun with your neighbors and friends, and toast the arts in Rappahannock!

*[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)**

**Rappahannock Association for Arts and Community**

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Washington, VA 22747

1-800-695-6075

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

Email us at [newsletter@raac.org](mailto:newsletter@raac.org)

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