

RAAC Newsletter Dec 17 - Jan 18

Hello friends!

Welcome to our combined December-January newsletter featuring an array of arts events and news for your early winter pleasure.

First of all, congratulations to Heather Wicke and her committee for an extraordinary Artists of Rappahannock Studio & Gallery Tour. We set records across the board - over 100 artists participating in 38 studios and galleries, more than 1,000 visitors in spite of the drizzle, best-ever sponsor contributions, and a beautiful gallery installation at the historic Washington School. Many thanks to the hard-working volunteers, generous sponsors, and participating artists who made the Art Tour such a success!

First Friday at the Movies is screening an internationally acclaimed and award-winning documentary, "The Eagle Huntress" on Dec 1 at 7pm. It's a beautiful film about a girl who learns the challenging skills of eagle hunting in Mongolia and goes on to become the first female to compete with golden eagles. "The Eagle Huntress" is a New York Times and LA Times "Critics Pick" - "a movie that expands your sense of what is possible."

Also coming up quickly is our holiday theater extravaganza, "St. George and the Dragon at Christmastide." It opens Dec 1 and runs through the 9th with 5 evening and matinee performances. The cast of 30, ages 6 to 70s, brings a contemporary flair to the traditional fable of the triumph of good over evil. Tickets will go fast, so reserve [HERE](#) soon.

RAAC's Second Friday talk series features Joyce Abell on Dec 8. She'll regale us with stories from her newly published book, "Prickly Roses." Celebrated writer Marion Winick will interview Joyce about her life and her writing. Joyce will also read from her book at the library at 8pm. All are welcome at this free event.

Our ever-popular winter Soup & Soul gatherings begin in January and will run through March on the third Saturday evening of each month. RAAC members will have a special opportunity to reserve before the events are opened to the general public - stay tuned! We're usually able to include folks on the wait lists, so don't hesitate to reserve.

RAAC's Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund invites local artists and organizations to apply for 2018 arts grants. Applications and guidelines will be available on our website after Dec 1. If interested, attend our grant workshop at the Rappahannock County Library on Dec 9.

I hope to see you at an upcoming arts event, perhaps a play, library talk, or Soup & Soul. All are welcome! For additional information on December and January events, read below and go to raac.org.

Matthew Black, President, RAAC



RAAC Newsletter

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Dec 2017/Jan 2018

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RAAC Community Theatre

"Saint George and the Dragon at Christmastide"

Friday, Dec 1, 8pm
Saturday, Dec 2, 3pm
Sunday, Dec 3, 3pm

Friday, Dec 8, 8pm
Saturday, Dec 9, 3pm

This play has medieval roots and was performed by traveling troupes of actors.

Directing a cast of nearly 30 actors ranging in age from 6 to 70s, Patty Hardee adds a contemporary flair to the traditional fable of the triumph of good over evil.

***At left:** The giant Blunderbore, played by Ryan Allred, unleashes the small devils, trolls, and gnomes in a rehearsal of the RAAC Community Theatre production of "St. George and the Dragon at Christmastide."*

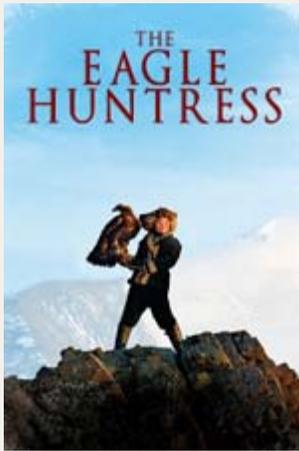
All performances will be held at the RAAC Community Theatre, 310 Gay St., Washington, VA.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children age 12 and under. Click [HERE](#) to buy your tickets!

Upcoming Theatre performances:

- "Good People," Mar 2018
- "A Thousand Clowns," May 2018

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



The Eagle Huntress
movie poster

*Click on the photo below
to play the movie trailer*



First Friday at the Movies

"The Eagle Huntress"

Friday, Dec 1, 7pm, \$6

(Popcorn, candy, and water available for purchase)

Little Washington Theatre

291 Gay Street, Washington, VA 22747

**Starring: Daisy Ridley (narrator), Aisholpan Nurgaiv,
Rys Nurgaiv**

Director: Otto Bell

**Awards: 1 BAFTA award; another 8 wins
& 18 nominations**

**Documentary, adventure, sport; 87 minutes;
Rated G**

This spellbinding documentary follows Aisholpan, a 13-year-old nomadic Mongolian girl who is fighting to become the first female eagle hunter in twelve generations of her Kazakh family. Through breathtaking aerial cinematography and intimate verite footage, the film captures her personal journey while also addressing universal themes like female empowerment, the natural world, coming of age, and the onset of modernity.

-From the Internet Movie Database

***We will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for the Food
Pantry. If you bring a toy, you get into the movie free!***

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



Second Friday at the Library

Joyce Abell

Friday, Dec 8, 8pm

**Rappahannock County Library
4 Library Lane, Washington, VA 22747**

December's Second Friday talk features Joyce Abell, Rappahannock's newest and quite likely oldest author.

The evening will be a celebration of the publication of Joyce's memoir, "Prickly Roses," which has been acclaimed as "unimaginable, fascinating, and unspeakably magical."

Joyce will be interviewed by another acclaimed author, Marion Winik, a much-admired essayist in her own right and Joyce's daughter-in-law.

December's talk will take place at the library.

The talk is free. All are welcome.

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



Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund

Grant Workshop

Saturday, Dec 9, 10am - noon

**Rappahannock County Library
4 Library Lane, Washington, VA 22747**

All who are curious about RAAC's Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund program or thinking of applying for a grant are welcome and encouraged to attend the workshop. Members of the Arts Fund committee will go over the 2018 grant application and new guidelines, and will answer questions about submitting a proposal.

The Application and Guidelines for 2018 grants will be available Dec 1 on [RAAC's website](#).

Since 2012, RAAC has awarded \$160,000 to 50 Rappahannock artists and organizations - inspiring art and building community!

Click to visit RAAC's Mitchell Fund webpages.



Click on the photo below to play the movie trailer



First Friday at the Movies

"Wind River"

Friday, Jan 5, 7pm, \$6

(Popcorn, candy, and water available for purchase)

Little Washington Theatre

291 Gay Street, Washington, VA 22747

Starring: Kelsey Asbille, Jeremy Renner, Julie Jones

Director: Taylor Sheridan

Awards: 4 nominations/5 wins

Crime, drama, mystery; 107 minutes

Rated R

A veteran tracker with the Fish and Wildlife Service helps investigate the murder of a young Native American woman and uses the case as a means of seeking redemption for an earlier act of irresponsibility that ended in tragedy.

Source: *The Internet Movie Database* (imdb.com)

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



Second Friday at the Library

Norm Ornstein

Friday, Jan 12, 8pm

**Little Washington Theatre
291 Gay Street, Washington, VA 22747**

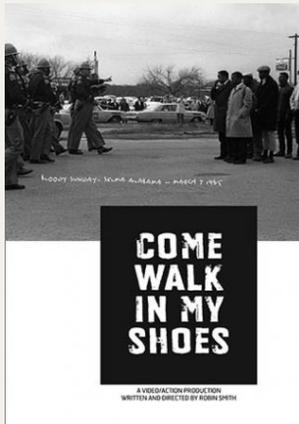
In January a special program at the Little Washington Theatre - not at the library - features Norm Ornstein, perhaps the most-honored political writer in America. Ornstein's latest book, a runaway best-seller, is "One Nation After Trump: A Guide for the Perplexed, the Disillusioned, the Desperate, and the Not-Yet-Deported."

The book's two-part mission is to explain where we stand today, politically speaking, and to argue that the Trump presidency "could be the occasion for an era of democratic renewal."

Ornstein is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington. He drew a packed house to an earlier Second Friday talk, exactly four years ago. His talk then revolved around an earlier book, "It's Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided With the New Politics of Extremism." In January we will learn what has changed and what likely lies ahead.

The talk is free. All are welcome.

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



Martin Luther King Day Celebration

"Come Walk in My Shoes" Documentary & speakers

Sunday, Jan 14, 4pm

**Theatre at Little Washington
291 Gay Street, Washington, VA 22747**

**Donations go to the Julia E. Boddie
Scholarship Foundation**

"Come Walk in My Shoes" is an award-winning documentary that follows the Honorable John Lewis on his annual emotional pilgrimage to the churches, parks, and bridges where young people played a pivotal role in the struggle for equality and voting rights. At each location, Lewis reflects on his experiences and provides a forum for others - the "unsung heroes who cared deeply, sacrificed much, and fought hard for a better America" - to help us understand what happened, and why it happened.

This documentary, run time 56 minutes, provides a fresh, first-person perspective on the non-violent protests that challenged segregation laws in the South and led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

Speakers include writer/director Robin Smith and retired CBS News correspondent Bill Plante.

In celebration of Martin Luther King Day, this free event is co-sponsored by the Julia E. Boddie Scholarship Foundation, Little Washington Theatre, and RAAC.

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



Soup & Soul

Michael Sage
Saturday, Jan 20

Michael Dennis
Saturday, Feb 17

Bill Harris
Saturday, Mar 17

RAAC's annual Soup & Soul series offers an opportunity to hear from local artists about their work and their creative process. The events are held in host homes in the county, and include a potluck dinner along with soup provided by the hosts.

The 2018 Soup and Soul series will feature photographer Michael Sage on Jan 20, designer and bookbinder Michael Dennis on Feb 17, and jazz pianist Bill Harris on Mar 17.

One benefit of RAAC membership is early notification of these events. RAAC members will receive an email on Dec 1 with a specific members' link to purchase tickets at \$20 each. Tickets will then be available to the general public on the RAAC website as of Dec 4. Space is limited, so early response is recommended. If an event is full, the RAAC website will also provide a chance to place your name on a wait list. We are often able to accommodate folks on the wait list as we get closer to the event.

This season's artists offer a wide range of talents and interests:

- **Michael Sage.** After 10 years of full time dedicated study in photography in the western US, Michael settled in Rappahannock County in 2015, where he has developed his own style of photo-surrealism depicting life in rural Virginia. He teaches photo-artists his method of "intuitive imagery" at his studio in Flint Hill, and he is a veteran of the Artists of Rappahannock Studio & Gallery Tour.
- **Michael Dennis,** another veteran of the RAAC Studio & Gallery Tour, has an MFA in design and for 30 years ran his own graphic design firm and designed exhibitions on art, music, and dance for the Library of Congress. After moving to Rappahannock with husband Paul Smith, he opened a book arts studio in Flint Hill, where he crafts one-of-a-kind artist's books composed of tiny pieces of colored paper that are perfectly inlaid to form a seamless planographic surface.

- **Bill Harris**

is well known to local music audiences as a jazz pianist and singer. Harris is also known and admired well beyond our borders, and he is listed in Washingtonian Magazine's "Best of Jazz in DC," having won the Hennessy Cognac Best of DC Jazz Competition. Bill has performed at the Smithsonian, Blues Alley, the Kennedy Center, and best of all, at Little Washington Theatre.

[Click to visit RAAC's Soup & Soul webpages.](#)



Artists of Rappahannock Studio & Gallery Tour

Art Tour 2017 Report

The 2017 Art Tour was a resounding success! Over 1,000 visitors braved the cool, drizzly weather to enjoy an impressive variety and quality of artwork created by over 100 artists in studios and galleries around the county.

Preliminary results indicate record-setting artwork sales, as well as contributions from Tour sponsors! All of this is gratifying to the many volunteers who spent months preparing for one of Rappahannock's biggest and most popular events - the festive Friday night reception followed by a weekend of art touring.

The main gallery at the Tour's headquarters at the historic Washington School was especially grand this year. The show was Robert Ballard's final installation after years of hanging the Tour's exhibit - thank you Robert! And much to the delight of visitors, this year's installation also highlighted two large panels created by students from our local elementary and high school.

Thanks again to the widespread community support of the Art Tour, reflected in generous financial contributions, great volunteer help, large attendance, terrific energy, and happy local businesses.

[Click to visit RAAC's 2017 Art Tour webpages.](#)





Art Beat Rappahannock, Dec 2017-Jan 2018

Featuring non-RAAC arts events in Rappahannock County

Theatre

- Dec 2, 8pm, **Little Washington Theatre**, "Chaise Lounge Holiday Performance," classic holiday/swing music, \$25 adults; \$10 under 18. [DETAILS & RESERVATIONS](#)
- Dec 3, 4pm, **Castleton Theatre**, "A Christmas Carol: One-Man Play" by John Hardy, Tickets \$20 to \$40. [DETAILS & RESERVATIONS](#)
- Dec 17, 4pm, **Castleton Theatre**, Celtic Consort with Lynn Barnes & Allison Hampton. [DETAILS & RESERVATIONS](#)
- Jan 21, 3pm, **Little Washington Theatre**, Audrey Andrist, classical pianist, \$25 adults; \$10 under 18. [DETAILS & RESERVATIONS](#)

Art

- Dec 9, 3-6pm, **Middle Street Gallery**, reopening celebration in Little Washington at 351 Middle Street & solo show by Rosabel Goodman-Everard, "Doodling in the Dark" through Jan 14. [DETAILS](#)
- Dec 9, 5pm, **Haley Fine Arts**, Opening Reception for Tom Mullany & Drew Ernst show. [DETAILS](#)

Music

These venues host live music in December and/or January. Visit their websites for details:

- **Gadino Cellars** [DETAILS](#)
- **Griffin Tavern** [DETAILS](#)
- **Headmasters Pub** [DETAILS](#)
- **Narmada Winery** [DETAILS](#)

To submit an event, email artbeat@raac.org.

Please note: For inclusion in Art Beat, event details should be emailed to artbeat@raac.org by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

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

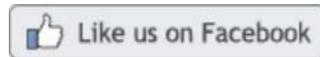
Rappahannock Association for Arts and Community

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

Email us at newsletter@raac.org



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