

# RAAC



## Rappahannock Association for Arts and Community

### January 2020

### Hello friends!

I hope your holidays were energizing, fun, and peaceful. While mine were, it also feels great to return to something I'll loosely call normal. Below are write-ups about several upcoming RAAC events in January to get the winter season started. You'll notice that we are not screening a movie this month but are planning to do so in February - after we've digested the findings from our recent movie survey (see a summary of results below). I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the 2nd Friday RAAC Talk at the library featuring Michael Shea!

Thanks!

**Matthew Black, President, RAAC**



### Events in January

**Jan 10th, 8pm**     **Michael Shea - *Art, Consciousness, Ethics, and Social Media***  
2nd Friday RAAC Talk  
Rappahannock County Library

**Jan 18, 6:30**     **Soup & Soul - Gary Anthes, Photographer**

**Sun, Feb 2, 2-4pm** **RAAC Theatre Auditions for spring play**  
**Mon, Feb 3,**  
**6:30 to 8:30 pm**



### Michael Shea 2nd Friday RAAC Talks

**Friday, January 10th, 8pm**  
**Rappahannock County Library**

The 2nd Friday RAAC Talk will feature Michael Shea, a therapist in Washington, DC, and a Rappahannock weekender. He calls his talk *Art, Consciousness, Ethics, and Social Media*. His focus is on art and mental health, and how social media and other technological changes



## Soup and Soul

All booked, but put your name on the wait list

RAAC's Soup and Soul evenings continue to be a huge hit. Tickets sold out in less than 24 hours. (These are pot-luck dinners in a host home, along with a presentation by a local artist about their work and creative process). If you're interested, please visit the RAAC web site.

**Jan. 18. Gary Anthes, photographer**

**Feb. 15 Kat Habib, ceramics & Jen Cable, floral arts**

**Mar. 21. Davette Leonard, painter**

Now let's all hope for no snow!

As in the past, one privilege of RAAC membership is early notification when Soup and Soul tickets go on sale. If you'd like to get early notice next year visit the RAAC web site and become a member.



## Calling All Actors - RAAC Community Theatre Auditions for spring play

January 26 and 27, 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Auditions for *The Good Doctor* by Neil Simon

The play consists of 12 comedy sketches based on Chekhov short stories. If you've wanted to try acting, this might be your chance - you could be cast in one short piece without committing to a full play.

Performance dates aren't set yet but will be at the end of April or in early May.

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

## And more...

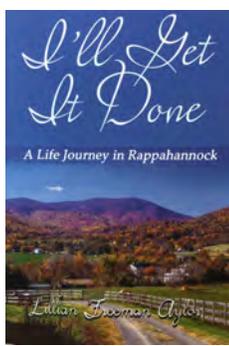
### Improvisation Workshop

Save the date and watch for more details.

Saturday, March 7, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

## Mitchell Fund Grantee News

Funded in part by a 2019 Mitchell Arts Fund grant, Lillian Aylor's long-awaited memoir was launched in



December. *I'll Get it Done - A Life Journey in Rappahannock County* chronicles Lillian's passage from log cabin to prominence in the community before and after integration in rural Virginia. It's a family saga of faith, survival and a life well lived - as much a story of the county's journey as it is Lillian's.

More than 200 copies have been sold in December at the Christmas artisan market in Little Washington and at a reading & book signing at Before & After in Sperryville. Copies are available locally at the Inn at Mount Vernon, Before & After, Central Coffee Roasters, Rappahannock Historical Society, and online at Amazon.com. Come hear Lillian and her editorial/research team speak at RAAC's 2nd Friday Talk on April 10.

## RAAC Movie Survey Results

In November RAAC launched a short survey to collect your ideas and suggestions about RAAC's movie series. We sent emails to members and nonmembers living in and near Rappahannock County inviting all to participate in the online survey. We were very pleased by the number of responses-245 people shared their views by early December.

RAAC has generally screened about 8 movies a year on the 1st Friday of the month. According to the survey, almost two-thirds attend occasionally (3-5 times/year) or once in a while (1-2 times/yr). The rest attended either very often (6-8 times/yr) or almost never. In short, we've heard from a good cross-section of movie goers.

In terms of trends, almost half attend the same number of movies as they've done in the past; but about 20% have cut back, stopped, or nearly stopped going versus 6% who are going to more movies than they used to. This trend confirms RAAC's experience-a modest drop off in movie attendance. And it's not surprising in light of the ease of watching movies at home.

Here's what else we learned from the survey:

- Showing movies at 7pm is clearly favored over a 8pm start time
- There is no consensus on Friday vs Saturday night movies
- Those attending few or no movies are more in favor of Saturday night screenings; more frequent movie goers like the status quo
- The most popular kinds of movies are award winning, well-received sleepers, and independent/documentaries; family and oldie-goldie movies have relatively little support
- RAAC newsletters and the RappNews are the predominant ways that folks heard about the movies, but not the only source
- The decision to go to the movies rests heavily on the kind of movie, although weather can be a deterrent; and for those with hearing challenges, the use of closed captions is an important factor
- Film-Talkback events-subject matter of the film and the discussants were the big factors in attracting attendees, followed by day/time of the event
- And why go to a RAAC movie instead of watching it at home? Because going to the movies is a "fun evening out" as well as being an opportunity to be with friends and neighbors. And "liking movies on a big screen" was the other big reason for going out to the movies. So let's figure out ways to have "fun evenings out" around the silver screen.

We were enthused by the 43 people who provided their email addresses to receive info about how they might help with RAAC movies. We'll be following up with you soon - thanks! There were others who indicated an interest in volunteering but did not provide email addresses. Because this was an anonymous survey, we don't know who you are, so please let us know at: [movies@raac.org](mailto:movies@raac.org).

We'll be meeting soon to use these survey results in fine-tuning our movies series and we look forward to sharing our ideas with you next month. Until then, thanks again to the 245 respondents who shared their views with us!

## RAAC on Facebook

Do you have photographs taken at a RAAC-sponsored event that we could share on our **Facebook** pages? We'd love to see them, and if we end up posting your photos, we will give you a shout-out as the photographer!

Be sure to identify the event where a photo was taken. It would be great if you could let us know who's in the photo as well.

**Send your submissions to** [info@raac.org](mailto:info@raac.org).

**Visit RAAC's calendar for additional details about upcoming events.**

## Visit RAAC.org

1-800-695-6075

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



Visit local events calendar hosted by **Rappahannock.com**.