

RAAC Newsletter August 2015



Hello friends,

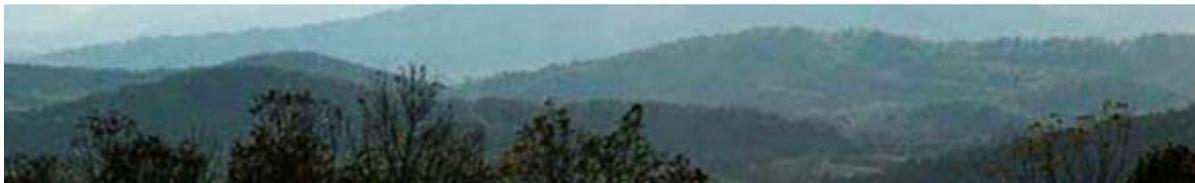
Happy summer! Hope you're enjoying the wildflowers, bear sightings, gatherings with friends, and exciting performances at Castleton. What a great antidote to the heat and humidity! RAAC is taking advantage of these languid summer days to get ready for our fall and winter events. Please take a look below because you may want to save some dates in September for the upcoming movie, library talk, community drum circle, and theatre performance. When I looked at the calendar I was surprised that the First Friday at the Movies will occur before Labor Day this year - don't miss "The Imitation Game"!

You'll also see in this month's newsletter some of RAAC's programs in action, ranging from Mitchell Arts Fund recipients putting their grants to work, to the wrap-up of our RAAC-Castleton Art Competition, to the release of RAAC's second famous coloring book for kids (and adults) created by Rappahannock artists. And folks are still talking about the performance of "My Analyst Told Me," a special fundraiser in June for RAAC's Community Theatre generously donated by the performers themselves, Michael Shea and Jeff Hamlin. Thank you!

Finally, I encourage you to be a sponsor of this year's Art Tour - the big event in November that showcases our local artists. Details are in the letter you received from me and the Tour committee chairs. By the way, any net proceeds from the Art Tour are channeled back into the community.

Enjoy August and I'll see you in September.

Matthew Black, President, RAAC



RAAC Newsletter

Vol 3, #6

August 2015

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**Save these dates!
Upcoming RAAC events**

Sep 4 at 8pm, First Friday at the Movies. "The Imitation Game," winner of multiple awards.

Sep 11 at 8pm, Second Friday at the Library. Diane 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 is on the board of the CCLC, and she'll tell us about what she has learned in her long career and how the learning center uses her innovative teaching program.

Sep 13, Oct 17, Nov 14, 7-8:30pm. Musician Wendi Sirat has scheduled three community drum circles at the RAAC Community Theater this fall. Come join in these fun, creative, intergenerational events!

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

**RAAC Community Theatre
"The Gin Game"**

**Fri, Sep 25 & Sat, Sep 26 at 8pm
RAAC Community Theatre
310 Gay Street, Washington, VA 22747
Tickets \$15**

Two of the area's best known actors - Andy Platt and Joyce Abell - will star in RAAC Community Theatre's production of "The Gin Game."

In this Pulitzer Prize-winning play, Weller Martin (Andy) and Fonsia Dorsey (Joyce), 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.

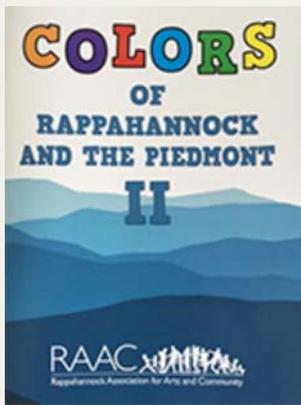
The RAAC production is directed by Mike Mahoney, who also directed Andy and Joyce in the RAAC production of "Driving Miss Daisy" in 2012.

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.

For reservations, visit our website. If you don't have Internet access, call 1-800-695-6075.

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





New RAAC Coloring Book

Our second edition of "Colors of Rappahannock and the Piedmont" has been published - a coloring book containing twelve black-and-white drawings by some of our wonderful local artists.

Almost 2,000 complimentary copies have been distributed to hospitals and pediatric practices in Warrenton, Culpeper, and Front Royal, and in Rappahannock to the Visitor Center, Library, Health Department, and Food Pantry, as well as to Headwaters and CCLC.

The coloring book is the brainchild of RAAC Board member and Washington artist Kevin Adams, who in 2011 "realized that without a hospital in our county, children needed to go somewhere outside the county when they were sick. I thought it would be a great thing to give these children something to remind them of home. With this second edition, children can be inspired to discover new views and colors of the special places where we live."

Contributing artists were asked to "close your eyes and think of Rappahannock County - what is that one thing that is near and dear to you?" Answering the call in this year's coloring book are artists Geneva Welch, Patricia Brennan, Peter Kramer, Ruthie Windsor-Mann, Andrew Morgan, Thomas Mullany, Patricia Underwood, Ann Currie, Rick Myers, Nedra Smith, Barbara Heile and Margaret Rogers.

A very limited number of coloring books will be available for sale for \$5 this fall at RAAC's Second Friday at the Library Series and First Friday at the Movies. And if the demand is great, we'll consider another printing!

At left, a Rappahannock student enjoys his coloring book (photo by Jen Perrot).

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

RAAC-Castleton Art Contest Artists' reception

Our first-ever invitational to celebrate music through the visual arts was a great success. We received a number of terrific art entries from Rappahannock artists, from both adults and high school students. The winning artwork was exhibited at the Middle Street Gallery for a month and just closed on July 26.

Our grand prize winner, Patricia Underwood, had her artwork featured on the cover of the Castleton Festival Program! We hope you've had a chance to see the gallery show and attend one of the beautiful performances at Castleton - and brought home an equally beautiful program.

Pictured at top right is Patricia in front of her artwork with Maestro Lorin Maazel's son, Leslie.

Pictured at bottom right is Alyssa Rogers in front of her artwork.

Photos by Susan Raines.

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



2015 Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund Summer in Rappahannock

Mitchell Fund grants have enriched, educated, and enlivened the summer for many Rappahannock County students. Three of our supported programs are highlighted below:

1. Artists Kerrie Mullany and Darien Reece have been hard at work this summer at Mullany Studio School in Flint Hill.

With twelve enthusiastic Rappahannock kids, ages 8 to 12, they painted a mural for the hallway of the RappCats shelter next door in the Vierling warehouse building.

Watch for a grand unveiling later this fall!

Photos at left by Darien Reece.





2. Ten 4-H campers have signed up to participate in a short filmmaking workshop offered at this summer's Culpeper-Shenandoah-Rappahannock 4-H overnight camp. They will get an intensive introduction to video filmmaking, thanks to a Mitchell Fund grant. During the week they will create a short film about the benefits of coming to 4-H camp.

The campers and others will continue their explorations during the school year in a Short Filmmaking 4-H club, where they will learn more video skills from local filmmakers Deedee Slewka, Matieu Mazza, and Tracy Mazza.

For details and to sign up for this 4-H club, contact Jenny Kapsa, 4-H Coordinator for Rappahannock County, at 540-675-3619 or at jkapsa@vt.edu.

The photo of the 4-H counselor and camper is from the Rappahannock County 4-H Facebook page.



3. Rappahannock students participated in two separate Castleton Alive! programs this summer that were supported by the Mitchell Arts Fund.

In the "Side by Side" program (photo at left), older students shadowed Castleton Festival Orchestra members at rehearsals for the summer's productions, learning what a professional rehearsal entails.

Over 125 area students visited Castleton Farms on July 6, where they attended breakout sessions in small groups. They learned some basic German language, participated in a group dance lesson, toured the facilities to learn about all that goes into making a show appear seamless, and attended a brief rehearsal. *(Many of the students are pictured below.)*

Side-by-Side photo at left by Xiaolin Lei.

Group photo below by Sophia Spengler.

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



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

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