

RAAC Newsletter March 2017



Hello friends!

Could spring be close at hand? Come enjoy the energy from all the arts happenings in the county - movies, library talks, Soup & Soul, concerts at Little Washington Theatre and Castleton Festival, and more.

Coming your way: Meryl Streep stars in "Florence Foster Jenkins" at First Friday at the Movies, Culpeper's Joan Vernikos (NASA scientist) will speak at the Second Friday at the Library talk, and our final winter Soup & Soul on March 18 features painter Ruthie Windsor Mann.

RAAC's third annual Film Festival is in the final month of preparation. Over 150 entries were submitted by an exciting mix of filmmakers - selected films will be screened during the April 7-9 Festival. Save the weekend!

Planning to submit a grant proposal to RAAC's Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund? Please remember that March 15 is the final day that we'll accept applications from artists and organizations.

By now you should have received our annual fundraising letter inviting you to support RAAC. We are a volunteer organization and all funds are channelled into Rappahannock to inspire art and build community. You can help make this happen by contributing financially, by participating as a volunteer, and by attending arts events in the county.

Check out Art Beat below for other arts events in the county. Yet another way to explore the arts is by taking classes. RappU is entering its second year, bringing teachers and learners together right here in Rappahannock! Spring classes and online registration will be coming soon to www.rappu.coursestorm.com.

Hope to see you at an upcoming event!

Matthew Black, President, RAAC



RAAC Newsletter

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March 2017





Click on the photo below to play the movie trailer



First Friday at the Movies "Florence Foster Jenkins"

Friday, Mar 3, 8pm, \$6

Little Washington Theatre
291 Gay Street, Washington, VA 22747

Starring Meryl Streep, Hugh Grant, Simon Helberg
Director Stephen Frears
Writer Nicholas Martin
Awards: nominated for two Oscars
Biography, comedy, drama; 111 minutes, Rated PG-13

Meryl Streep steps up to the plate with another cheerfully game performance in "Florence Foster Jenkins," a warm, generous-hearted portrait of the title character: a wealthy music aficionado who, in real life, became a cult figure in the 1930s and '40s with her earnest, wildly off-key singing. Streep, who possesses a lovely singing voice, does a pitch-perfect imitation of a tone-deaf diva who, in the film's telling, flourishes in spite of cruel, persnickety critics.

The movie manages to be tender and surprisingly affecting. Nowhere is that truer than Jenkins's curious relationship with her young manager and common-law husband St. Clair Bayfield, portrayed by Hugh Grant with his signature ingratiating charm and, ultimately, admirable steel.

This film by Nicholas Martin is a comedy, and a frothy, flossy one at that. But Martin rarely wins laughs at the title character's expense: Most of the humor comes by way of Simon Helberg, as Florence's alternately disbelieving and devoted accompanist, and Nina Arianda, as a tough-talking showgirl who leaves her first Jenkins recital in fits of uncontrollable laughter, but eventually becomes a fan.

Directed by Stephen Frears, "Florence Foster Jenkins" brims with love for its characters and forbearance for even their most blinkered self-deception. Even when her notes are intolerably sour, Jenkins's story is never less than touchingly bittersweet.

*- Adapted from a review by Ann Hornaday,
The Washington Post, August 11, 2016*

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



**Second Friday at the Library
Joan Vernikos**

Friday, Mar 10, 8pm

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

March's speaker is NASA scientist Joan Vernikos, who will tell us "How to Age Better and Other Space Stories." (The talk will be at the usual venue, the library.) Vernikos, who lives in Culpeper, spent many years studying what happens to astronauts in zero gravity. What happens is a sad tale - they grow old and weak much too fast. Vernikos will tell us what we here on Earth can learn from astronauts in space.

She has written a new book called "Designed to Move," about practical, easy steps we can take to dodge the astronauts' fate. (One hint - sitting is the enemy.) Vernikos is lively and engaging, and her advice is fact-based and grounded in science.

The talk is free. All are welcome. (And, as a bonus, Rappahannock's favorite raconteur, Nevill Turner, will introduce the speaker).

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

ARTS FUND

Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund Deadline for 2017 grant applications

Wednesday, Mar 15

The last day to apply for a Mitchell Arts Fund grant is fast approaching! Details and the 2017 application are available on RAAC's website by clicking [here](#). All applications must be submitted online by **midnight, March 15**.

UPDATES ON 2016 GRANTEES



Belle Meade School is presenting the musical "Footloose" March 10 and 11 (details in *Art Beat*, below). Students and teachers (*at left*) have been working hard memorizing lines and choreographing dance moves. Stage design, costumes, and props are coming together. Senior Elliott Eaton, in the lead role of Ren McCormick, says, "Be prepared for a thrilling, funny, and heart-felt story brought to you by Belle Meade students."



Linda Heimstra, mural artist and jazz musician, is enthusiastic about her efforts to transition from working with acrylics to learning the more complex techniques of oil painting. This fall she completed a trompe l'oeil image (*at left*) of a rare blue coral for a scuba-diver client - "OMG, it was so much easier to create the look I was after with the oils!" Linda is in process with the first in a series of portraits of Rappahannock notables - the initial one will be of musician Wendi Sirat.

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



Soup & Soul Ruthie Windsor-Mann

Saturday, Mar 18

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 2017 Soup & Soul series features **painter Ruthie Windsor-Mann** on March 18. She is a veteran of RAAC's annual Artists of Rappahannock Studio & Gallery Tour.

For Ruthie Windsor-Mann, it's all about the light, and light is abundant in her studio and in her work in oil, watercolor, and pen & ink. Sometimes her buildings, landscapes, still lifes, bird nests, mountain scenes, and hay bales are created using just one medium, but lately she has been experimenting with all three disciplines in one painting.

This event is fully subscribed, but RAAC's website provides a chance to place your name on the [wait list](#). We are often able to accommodate folks from the wait list as we get closer to the event.

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



Film Festival at Little Washington Coming soon!

Friday-Sunday, Apr 7-9

The submission period for the Film Festival ended recently and the screening committee is busy reviewing films, both domestic and international! The word is, this year's Festival promises to be another weekend full of entertaining and thought-provoking feature films, documentaries, and shorts.

As an added bonus, the Festival will also feature several special programs - a Youth Hour showcasing short films submitted by students K-12; a Student Film Program (graduate and post-graduate) including select award-winning films produced by students in Film and Video Studies at George Mason University; and a program featuring works by Rappahannock and Virginia filmmakers.

Interested in sponsoring the Festival or volunteering?

Visit www.TheFilmFestivalAtLittleWashington.com

Contact Theresa Wood at 817-403-0496

Email fflw2017@gmail.com

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



RAAC fundraising drive now under way

Recently you may have received our annual letter inviting you to join RAAC or renew your support. If not, click [here](#) for information.

We are an all-volunteer organization, and all funds are channeled back into Rappahannock to inspire art and build community. You can help make this happen by contributing financially, participating as a volunteer, and by attending arts events in the county.

A big **thank you** to those who have already contributed, and a big welcome to the new members of the RAAC community!

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



Art Beat Rappahannock, March 2017

Featuring non-RAAC arts events in Rappahannock County

Theater

- Mar 4, 8pm, **Little Washington Theatre**, Shenandoah Run, folk/bluegrass. [DETAILS](#)
- Mar 10, 7pm, **Belle Meade School**, 353 FT Valley Road, "Footloose," musical, adults \$15; students \$10.
Mar 11, 2pm, "Footloose," musical, soup & bread at 1:15pm, adults \$20, students \$10. [SCHOOL WEBSITE](#)
- Mar 19, 4pm, **Castleton Festival**, Deandre Simmons, operatic bass vocalist & Robert Cassidy, pianist; Franz Shubert's "Die Winterreise." [DETAILS](#)

Music

- Mar 3, 8pm, **Griffin Tavern**, ATruiM3
Mar 4, 8:30pm, MoJo Band
Mar 10, 8pm, Marc Allred
Mar 11, 8:30pm, Clay Arthur & the Mystic Pistols
Mar 17, 8pm, Bryan Elijah & Jay Austin
Mar 18, 8:30pm, Robbie Limon Band
Mar 24, 8pm, Dubious Trio!
Mar 25, 8:30pm, Hypnotic Willie
Mar 31, 8pm, Lee Brennan [DETAILS](#)
- Mar 4, 8pm, **Headmaster's Pub**, Madonnas in a Field
Mar 11, 8pm, ATruiM3
Mar 18, 8pm, Dontez Harris
Mar 25, 8pm, Bobby G & Friends. [DETAILS](#)
- Mar 11, 2pm, **Rappahannock Cellars**, Justina Miller
Mar 12, 1pm, John Burton
Mar 25, 2pm, Marie Miller. [DETAILS](#)
- Mar 11, 1:30pm, **Gadino Cellars**, Vintage Silk. [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

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1-800-695-6075
RAAC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization staffed solely by volunteers.
Email us at newsletter@raac.org



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