

RAAC Newsletter December 2018 - January 2019

Hello friends!

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

Congratulations to Heather Wicke and her committee for an extraordinary Fall Art Tour. We set records across the board - over 100 artists participating in 43 studios and galleries, more than 1,200 visitors, 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 resounding success!

First Friday at the Movies will resume on Jan 4 (there's no December movie) with the screening of "Three Identical Strangers" at 7pm. The story begins with an astonishing reunion of identical triplets, separated from birth, that sets in motion a series of discoveries that leads to a startling revelation - with repercussions for all of us.

The holiday production of "Charlotte's Web" opens this Friday, Nov 30, at the RAAC Theatre. Tickets are hot items, but there may still be some seats available online for the five shows that run through Dec 9. This captivating tale of a pig, a spider, a barnyard, and adult characters will melt your heart.

Second Friday RAAC Talks will feature two remarkable people. On Dec 14, Cliff Mumm will share what it's like to lead huge rebuilding efforts following major crises, such as cleaning up the World Trade Center after 9/11, and mega projects like the English Channel Tunnel. Come hear a master storyteller who loves complexity. On Jan 11, in stellar contrast, the talented and award-winning photographer Joyce Harman will show her starry images and share ideas about all aspects of the night sky and what we can do to protect it.

Our ever-popular winter Soup and 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 are available now on [our website](#). All interested applicants are encouraged to attend our grant workshop at the Rappahannock County Library on Dec 8.

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

Matthew Black, President, RAAC



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Joyce Harman



RAAC Community Theatre

"Charlotte's Web"

Sat, Nov 30, 8pm
Sat, Dec 1, 3pm
Fri, Dec 7, 8pm
Sat, Dec 8, 3pm
Sun, Dec 9, 3pm

Written by E. B. White, "Charlotte's Web" is considered a classic of children's literature that appeals to both kids and adults. In the story, Charlotte, a spider, befriends a pig, Wilbur, who is in danger of being slaughtered. Charlotte uses her web-weaving skills to wow the farm community and ultimately spare Wilbur's life.

The play takes place at the RAAC Community Theatre, 310 Gay Street, Washington, VA. Tickets are available on the RAAC website by clicking [HERE](#). Shows sell out; early reservations are recommended.

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



Soup & Soul

Craig McPherson
Saturday, Jan 19

Patricia Brennan
Saturday, Feb 16

Chris Stephens
Saturday, Mar 16

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 artist Craig McPherson on Jan 19, stained-glass artist Patricia Brennan on Feb 16, and artist Chris Stephens on Mar 16.

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:

- **Craig McPherson** is an award-winning artist best known for his murals, paintings and mezzotint engravings. His immense murals and cityscapes grace corporate structures around the world, and his work is included in numerous museum, corporate and private collections in the US and abroad. Craig and his wife have lived and worked in New York City for 30 years, and now have a home in Fauquier County (while still traveling around the world on commission work).
- **Patricia Brennan** has worked as a commissioned stained glass artist for the past 37 years, creating a wide range of styles in glass and specializing in church windows, stained glass light boxes, family crest windows, and commissioned glasswork. Patricia's Sperryville studio, De'Danann Glassworks, has been included in RAAC's Fall Art Tour for several years, and she enjoys sharing her passion for glasswork by teaching classes every week.

- **Chris Stephens** uses vibrant colors to portray the sweeping landscapes of the Shenandoah Valley, achieving an alluring interpretation of the countryside. Chris holds an MFA from James Madison, and his work can be found in numerous collections including the SAS Institute, American Express, Bell Atlantic, First Union National Bank, Duke Energy, Lowe's, and UNC Women's and Children's Hospital. Chris now lives in Front Royal.

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



Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund Grants Workshop

Saturday, Dec 8, 10am-noon

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

RAAC's Mitchell Arts Fund is holding a Grants Workshop for anyone who is curious about the program and/or thinking of applying for a grant. All are encouraged to attend!

Members of the Mitchell Arts Fund committee will go over the 2019 grant application and new guidelines, and they will answer your questions about submitting a proposal.

Application and Guidelines for 2019 grants will be available by Dec 1 on RAAC's website by clicking **[HERE](#)**. Since 2012, RAAC has awarded \$209,000 to 56 Rappahannock artists and organizations - inspiring art and building community!

[Click to visit the Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund webpages.](#)



Second Friday Talk

Cliff Mumm

Friday, Dec 14, 2018, 8pm

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

December's Second Friday speaker will be Cliff Mumm, one of the world's leading experts on rebuilding after disasters. Mumm was in charge of cleaning up the World Trade Center after 9/11, and trying to rebuild Iraq after the Gulf War, and coping with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. These were immense and dangerous undertakings. In Iraq, after the overthrow of Saddam, 52 people working for Mumm were killed.

Mumm worked for three decades as one of the head men at the engineering giant Bechtel. He specialized in mega-projects around the globe - the subway in London (with the Olympic games looming), the Channel Tunnel linking England and France, and the aftermath of both natural and manmade disasters like Katrina and the Gulf War. "I'm not that interested in managing a company," Mumm once told an interviewer. "What I just love is the mess and complexity that comes with big projects."

Mumm is a master storyteller who has coped up close with chaos. Come hear his behind-the-scenes tales of life in the breakdown lane.

[Click to visit the Second Friday Talk webpages.](#)



First Friday Movie

"Three Identical Strangers"

Friday, Jan 4, 8pm

Tickets \$6

(Popcorn, candy, and water
available for purchase)

Little Washington Theatre
291 Gay Street, Washington, VA 22747

Starring: Silvi Alzetta-Reall, Eddy Galland,
Ron Guttman

Director: Tim Wardle

Genre: Documentary, Biography, Drama
96 minutes
Rated PG-13

In 1980 New York, three young men who were all adopted meet each other and find out they're triplets who were separated at birth.

Engrossing and sometimes enraging, two of the boys were reunited by happenstance when students mistake the new kid on campus for a student that left the school a year earlier. The two boys meet each other and "The New York Times" picks up the story.

The story then grows more complicated with the emergence of third look-alike, and just like that, the newly acquainted twins are now triplets. Nothing, though, would prove easy or obvious about their stories, which grow darker and more disturbing as "Three Identical Strangers" develops into a shocker.

- Source: *The New York Times*

[Click to visit RAAC's First Friday Movie webpage.](#)



Second Friday Talk

Joyce Harman

Friday, Jan 11, 2019, 8pm

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

January's Second Friday Talk features Rappahannock's own Joyce Harman, who will discuss the beauty of the night sky and talk about her efforts to preserve glorious vistas like the Milky Way. Harman has organized a program she calls the Dark Skies Initiative, in the hope that Rappahannock can fend off light pollution.

Harman is an award-winning photographer. She will show her photographs and discuss all aspects of the night sky - why it matters, and how Rappahannock compares with other places, and how things are changing, and what steps local residents can take on their own. She has roamed the county, camera in hand, and has compiled a gorgeous array of images. Just as important, Harman has prepared a series of before-and-after photos that demonstrate the effects of different lighting systems. The Rappahannock County Library itself is one of her test cases!

The talk is aimed at experts and beginners alike. Night-sky novices will learn how they can get started, and old pros will learn insiders' tips.

[Click to visit RAAC's Second Friday Talk webpages.](#)



Rappahannock.com Events Calendar

Click **HERE** to visit the comprehensive local events calendar hosted by Rappahannock.com.

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

Mark Your Calendar!

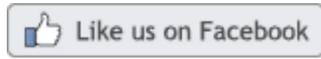
**For all the details, additions, and schedule changes for RAAC events, visit [RAAC's calendar](#).
Our website is updated frequently, so please check often.**

www.raac.org

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RAAC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization staffed by volunteers.
Email us at **newsletter@raac.org**



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