



# *RAAC Newsletter October 2018*

**Vol 6, #8**

## **Hello!**

Fall is under way, and let's hope the rain is behind us! RAAC is offering a number of programs to stimulate and entertain. You'll notice that our October Newsletter has no graphics - Kathy Farmer, our publisher, is organizing her mother's 100-year-old birthday celebration! We'll return next month with our usual images.

Below are the upcoming programs. Note: to make way for No Ordinary Person, there will be no First Friday Movie in October.

## **No Ordinary Person - October 5-6**

This year's No Ordinary Person marks the 20th anniversary of the perennially popular show devoted to true tales from Rappahannock storytellers. The program comes to the RAAC Community Theatre on Friday, October 5 and Saturday, October 6 at 8pm.

The performance features five Rappahannock residents telling four stories - one story is a joint affair! The storytellers are Bud Meyer, a newspaper executive and novelist; Joyce Wenger, who spent a career in technology and research; Jim Northup, a park ranger and superintendent for three decades; and Mike Sands and Betsy Dietel, whose areas of expertise stretch from farming to philanthropy.

The stories cover a wide range, both geographically and emotionally. We venture from Hannibal, Missouri, smack in the heartland of America, to South Korea, to the desert corners of the southwest, and we confront strangers as formidable as hard-eyed Mexican federales and as frightening, in a different way, as a large, loud, enthusiastic mother-in-law-to-be clad only in a towel and a diamond ring.

\* **Joyce Wenger** takes us on a journey through the markets and bathhouses of South Korea as seen through Western eyes. She was young and adventurous and, or so she thought, savvy when it came to navigating new cultures.

\* **Jim Northup** looks back at his long career as a park ranger, with a focus on days when things went bad in a very big way. The life of a ranger sometimes involves communing with nature and gazing at the scenery. But rarely. Jim's stories deal with murder on the Rio Grande and gigantic fires burning in Shenandoah National Park.

\* **Bud Meyer** grew up in a big family, where everyone was an athlete and a lifeguard and the most glamorous, most envied figure at the prom. Everyone, that is, except one member of the family.

\* **Mike Sands** and **Betsy Dietel** have been married a long while. But now - in a two-part story where we hear both sides of a rollicking tale - they venture back to their courting days, when Betsy first encountered Mike's mother, a whirlwind in human form.

No Ordinary Person is directed by Sallie Morgan, Lynn and Ed Dolnick, and Dick Raines, with special input from director emeritus Joyce Abell. All five storytellers will appear both nights.

### **Mitchell Fund Grantee Events - October 7, 13, 18**

The following events were made possible in part by 2018 grants from RAAC's Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund. All events are free, and everyone is welcome!

**Writers' Retreat - Public Reading.** Come hear the fruits of the weekend Writers' Retreat as participants read their works. October 7 at 10am at Bookworks Studio, 616 Zachary Taylor Highway in Flint Hill.

**Dark Skies Photo Exhibit** features 15 images by Joyce Harman from around the county, printed on metal to show off the detail in the stars. Accompanying the exhibit are handouts from the International Dark Sky Association about why it's worth saving our night skies. October 13 artist reception at 2-5 pm (in conjunction with Artisan Trail's Second Saturday events); on exhibit October 1-31 at Griffin Tavern, 659 Zachary Taylor Highway in Flint Hill.

**Story Hour** - Award winning children's book author & illustrator David Costello returns to CCLC for a residency that includes this public performance for young children. October 18 at 10am, CCLC, 12763 Lee Highway, Washington, Virginia. RSVP by telephone: 675-3237.

### **Second Friday Talk, Marion Winik - October 12**

The next Second Friday Talk will be held October 12 (8pm, at the library) and will feature the much admired essayist Marion Winik. She will talk about her brand-new book, *The Baltimore Book of the Dead*, which is a collection of mini-essays about people (and a pet or two) whose lives touched hers in a deep way and who have now died. Winik reports that she has included a couple of Rappahannock portraits in her gallery.

Winik's elegant prose has won her countless fans. Her books are sad and funny and smart, often in the same breath. "You'll want to read *The Baltimore Book of the Dead* as slowly as possible," the novelist Ann Patchett wrote, "because every observation is a marvel, every sentence a heartbreak or a revelation of joy. This book is both brief and miraculous, and it will be finished before you're ready to let it go. Like life."

Winik was a contributor to *All Things Considered* for many years, and her new book is her tenth. It is a sequel to 2005's *Glen Rock Book of the Dead*.

*The talk is free. All are welcome.*

### **RAAC Members' Picnic - October 14**

Our annual members' gathering will be held on Sunday, October 14 from noon to 3pm, at the Rappahannock County Park on Rt 211 across from the Town of Washington. Join fellow RAAC supporters in celebrating the fall season, catching up with friends, enjoying some great country music courtesy of Somewhere Tonight, and feasting on Etlan's finest BBQ. Please bring a dessert to share. See you then and there!

### **Community Square Dance - October 20**

All are invited to an old-fashioned Community Square Dance on Saturday, October 20, from 7 to 10pm at the Sperryville Fire Hall. All ages and experience levels are welcome, and dances will be taught as we go. Bring a partner or come

alone - we'll match you up! While no prior experience is needed, and for those who want to brush up on their steps, there will be an optional dance lesson/beginners' workshop from 6:15 to 7pm.

The caller will be the renowned DeLaura Padovan. Music will be provided by our local Lyt Wood and Mudlarks, accompanied by Steve Hickman. Come one, come all to this fun, family-oriented event. Tickets are \$15/person or \$25 for two, and students are free. Co-sponsored by RAAC and Rapp at Home.

### **14th Annual Fall Art Tour - November 3-4**

We're gearing up for RAAC's Fall Art Tour. This year we have a record-breaking 32 studios and 11 galleries showcasing more than 100 artists.

There is still time for all the fans of this extraordinary community event to become sponsors and have your names listed on our Main Gallery entry banners and program guide. You'll find the letter and sponsor reply form you received recently by mail by clicking [HERE](#). Supporters will enjoy the festive reception with artists, friends, and volunteers held on Friday, November 2 and get a first look at all the fine art arrayed there.

Want to have some fun and help with the Art Tour? We need more volunteers and if interested, please email us at [arttour@raac.org](mailto:arttour@raac.org). For more information and an exciting look at the artists' diverse work, click [FallArtTour.org](http://FallArtTour.org) to visit our new event website.

The Tour is RAAC's largest event and it seems to get bigger and better every year thanks to our dynamic artists and the support of the larger community. Net proceeds from the Tour go to our Mitchell Arts Fund, which enhances the vitality of our community through grants to local artists and arts organizations. We hope to see you all there, and thank you for your support and enthusiasm!

### **Community Theatre Holiday Performances - November 30-December 9**

RAAC's Community Theatre has selected Charlotte's Web for the annual holiday play. Auditions have been held, and 41 roles assigned! You'll be delighted to watch young actors on stage as they express their inner spider, pig, rat, and other barnyard inhabitants. And there'll be a few adults in the production who will be playing...adults.

Opportunities are available for anyone who would like to help: set painting, set building, costumes, props, lights, music and sound, makeup and hair. There are also opportunities for a few Jacks & Jills of all trades. Previous theater experience is not required. Send your name, areas of interest, and your contact information to our stage manager James Hanover at [jamesehanover@gmail.com](mailto:jamesehanover@gmail.com). He'll help you figure out what kind of job would be the best fit for you.

This year's production is directed by Lucia Hanover, a long-time theater professional. She most recently directed for the Fauquier Community Theatre. This is her directorial debut for the RAAC Community Theatre.

### **RAAC Writers' Initiative**

We're excited to announce that RAAC is planning to launch a Writers' Initiative. This initiative will be an ongoing program to provide networking opportunities, workshops, public readings, and other support for the poets, memoirists, novelists, playwrights, journalists, and other writers who call Rappahannock home. We're still in the early planning stages. If you have ideas about how RAAC can help support Rappahannock writers, we'd love to hear about them. Email Pete Pazmino at [petepazmino@gmail.com](mailto:petepazmino@gmail.com). In the meantime, see above in Mitchell Fund Grantee Events for information about an October 7 public reading at a RAAC-supported

writers' retreat.

**RAAC's mission is To Inspire Art and Build Community!**  
***Thank you!***

**Matthew Black**  
**President, Rappahannock Association for Arts and Community**

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[www.raac.org](http://www.raac.org)

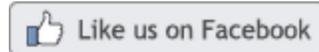
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