

# RAAC Newsletter March 2019

## **Hello friends!**

As the weather tentatively moves toward spring, RAAC has planned a range of arts events to lead the way, starting the very first day of March.

First Friday at the Movies is screening "The Death of Stalin" on March 1 at 7pm. Nominated for Best Foreign Language Film and Outstanding British Film, this comic-drama begins in 1953 when the tyrannical Soviet leader, Joseph Stalin, dies unexpectedly. That triggers a frantic surge of raw panic as aspiring Ministers scramble to maintain order, weed out the competition, and ultimately take power. Along the way, laughs brilliantly morph into gasps and then back again as the plot unfolds.

The Second Friday RAAC Talk will feature NASA scientist Joan Vernikos on March 8 who will discuss her new book, "Stress Beyond Gift: Tools & Wisdom for a Healthier, Longer Life." Vernikos has been praised for her insights into "when to retire, relaxation, loss and grieving, fear of losing control" and a host of other challenges. All are welcomed at the Rappahannock Public Library at 8pm.

The inaugural event of RAAC's Reading Series takes place on March 23 at Quiveremont Winery at 7pm. Come listen to talented local writers share current work and enjoy a glass of wine as you compare notes after the readings. There is no charge and all are welcomed.

The final Soup & Soul event on March 16 will feature Chris Stephens, a talented and admired painter known for his vibrant colors portraying scenes around Rappahannock. If you missed getting reservations, click [HERE](#) to put your name on our active wait list. We're usually able to accommodate most on the list.

The RAAC Community Theatre's Spring production is the Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Harvey." It's a story about Elwood, a polite and friendly man with a strange best friend - a 6-foot invisible rabbit named Harvey. Elwood's sister, Veta, is concerned the rabbit will interfere with her life as a socialite, so she tries to have Elwood committed at the local sanatorium. However, things don't go as planned. Performances at the RAAC Theatre will run March 29-30 and April 6-7. Tickets will be available soon on RAAC.org by clicking [HERE](#).

Artists and organizations, don't forget that March 15 is the deadline for RAAC's Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund grant applications! Information is available on our website by clicking [HERE](#).

By now you should have received our annual fundraising letter inviting you to support RAAC. We are a volunteer organization, and all funds are channeled into Rappahannock to inspire art and build community. You can help make this happen by contributing financially, by participating or volunteering, and by attending arts events in the county. Please click here and [JOIN US](#) as a supporting member!

***Thank you!***

**Matthew Black, President, RAAC**

**P.S.** Registration is underway for RAppU's spring classes. Click [HERE](#) to see what's available in multiple areas, including the arts.



## RAAC Newsletter

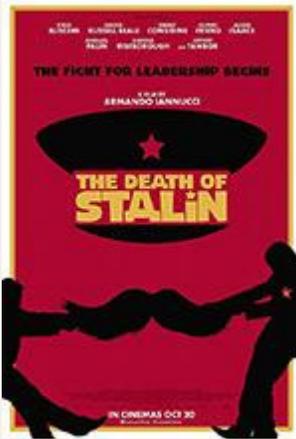
Vol 7, #2

March 2019

### *In this issue . . .*

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Mar 1</b>                   | First Friday Movie<br>"The Death of Stalin"                                       |
| <b>Mar 8</b>                   | Second Friday RAAC Talk<br>Joan Vernikos  |
| <b>Mar 15</b>                  | Mitchell Fund<br>Application deadline almost here!                                |
| <b>Mar 16</b>                  | Soup & Soul<br>Chris Stephens   |
| <b>Mar 23</b>                  | RAAC Reading Series<br>Inagural Event<br>Author readings<br>at Quiveremont Winery |
| <b>Mar 29, 30<br/>Apr 6, 7</b> | RAAC Community Theatre<br>"Harvey"  |
| <b>Feature</b>                 | Mitchell Fund<br>Updates on 2018 grantees   |
| <b>Feature</b>                 | RAAC's annual fundraising drive<br>Now in progress                                |





## First Friday Movie

### "The Death of Stalin"

Friday, Mar 1, 7pm  
Tickets \$6  
(Popcorn, candy, and water  
available for purchase)

Little Washington Theatre  
291 Gay Street, Washington, VA 22747

**Starring:** Steve Buscemi, Simon Russell Beale,  
Jeffrey Tambor

**Director:** Armando Iannucci

**Awards:** Nominated for 2 BAFTA Film Awards  
Another 18 wins & 31 nominations

**Trailer:** Click [HERE](#) for the movie trailer

**Genre:** Comedy, Drama, History  
1 hour 47 minutes  
Rated R

Moscow, 1953. After being in power for nearly 30 years, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin takes ill and quickly dies. Now the members of the Council of Ministers scramble for power.

- Source: [IMDB.com](#)

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



## Second Friday RAAC Talk

### Joan Vernikos

Friday, Mar 8, 2019, 8pm

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

March's speaker is Joan Vernikos, who will discuss what she learned about fitness as a NASA scientist. She is the author of a new book titled "Stress Beyond 50."

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



## Mitchell Fund

### Application deadline almost here!

**March 15** is the deadline for applying for 2019 Mitchell Fund grants. Guidelines and applications are available by clicking [HERE](#).

Since 2012, RAAC has awarded \$209,000 to 56 Rappahannock artists and organizations - inspiring art and building community!

Applicants must be Rappahannock residents and/or engaged in arts projects that benefit the Rappahannock community. Individual artists and organizations working in all media are welcome to apply.

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



## Soup & Soul

### Chris Stephens

**Saturday, Mar 16**

This season's final event features Chris Stephens, who uses vibrant colors to portray the sweeping landscapes of the Shenandoah Valley and achieves 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.

RAAC's annual Soup & Soul series offers an opportunity to hear from local artists about their work and their creative process. These winter events are held monthly in host homes in the county and include a potluck dinner along with soup provided by the hosts.

One benefit of RAAC membership is early notification of these annual events. RAAC members received an email last December with a specific members' link to purchase tickets at \$20 each. Tickets were then made available to the general public on the RAAC website.

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



## **RAAC Reading Series Inaugural Event**

### **Author readings at Quievermont Winery**

**Saturday, Mar 23**

**Social hour 6:30-7:30pm  
Readings begin at 7:30pm**

**Quievermont Winery  
162 Gid Brown Hollow Road #335  
Washington, VA**

RAAC is pleased to announce the launch of our new RAAC Reading Series, featuring small groups of local writers sharing their work in an intimate evening of poetry, prose, and wine. The inaugural event will take place at Quievermont Winery ([www.quievermont.com](http://www.quievermont.com)).

Attendance is free. Wine will be available for purchase, and light refreshments will be provided. There will be a social hour from 6:30-7:30pm during which audience members will be able to meet and mingle with the authors. The readings will begin shortly thereafter and will last for approximately 1 hour.

The lineup of authors reading at this event are:

- KC Bosch, a Claudia Mitchell grantee whose full-length book of poems and original photographs, "Stealing Days," was published in 2015
- Sheila R. Lamb, also a Claudia Mitchell grantee and former (fiction) writer-in-residence at the Weymouth Center for the Arts & Humanities
- Nol Putnam, who was the subject of the recent documentary film "Forging Art" and is currently at work on a memoir.
- The keynote reader will be Angela M. Carter, a 2014 Pushcart Prize nominee whose poetry memoir, "Memory Chose a Woman's Body," was published in 2014.

For more detailed biographical information about each author, visit the RAAC website's Reading Series page by clicking **[HERE](#)**.

*[Click to visit RAAC's Reading Series page.](#)*



## RAAC Community Theatre

### "Harvey"

**Friday, Mar 29, 8pm**  
**Saturday, Mar 30, 8pm**

**Saturday, Apr 6, 8pm**  
**Sunday, Apr 7, 3pm (matinee)**

The hilarious and beloved comedy "Harvey" by Mary Chase debuted on Broadway in 1944. It is a story about a happy-go-lucky fellow (Elwood Dowd) and his imaginary friend Harvey - a six-foot, three-and-one-half-inch tall pooka, a spiritual creature resembling a rabbit.

Elwood introduces Harvey to everyone he meets. His family, embarrassed by his eccentric behavior, commits him to a sanitarium. There's a comic mix up, and his sister is committed instead - as they say, hijinks ensue.

The RAAC Community Theatre production, directed by Patty Hardee, features John Lesinski as Elwood and Maureen Day as his sister Veta.

Tickets are available by clicking [HERE](#).

*Click to visit the RAAC Community Theatre webpages.*



## Mitchell Fund

### Updates on 2018 grantees

#### MUSICAL MENTORING

On a Saturday in February, twelve members of the Capital Wind Symphony joined the Rappahannock County High School (RCHS) and Elementary Bands for two rehearsal sessions at RCHS. Each group received an hour and a half session sitting among professional musicians of the Capital Wind Symphony, many of whom are members of the premier DC military ensembles.



Photo by Ray Boc

RCHS Band director Jason Guira was thrilled for his students. He commented that "the professional players provided students the ideal reinforcement of sound concept and musicality to improve their skills as musicians. Educational outreach programs such as this allow our students to benefit from positive mentoring relationships from accomplished musicians and give our students access to skills tutoring and assessment that can prove invaluable to their development as musicians."

This special musical learning opportunity was made possible through the collaboration of the Piedmont Symphony Orchestra's Music Mentor Program and the Capital Wind Symphony, with a grant from RAAC's Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund.



Jeanne Wall  
Photo by Lisa Pendleton

### UPCOMING MITCHELL FUND GRANTEE EVENTS

All are welcome!

#### Good Life Theater presents "World Tales"

Wednesday, March 13, 10 AM

CCLC hosts puppeteer Jeanne Wall who uses puppets, masks, shadow puppets, music, dramatic play, and audience participation to tell three tales, using three different story telling styles.

Child Care & Learning Center  
12763 Lee Highway, Washington  
Free for young children & their adults



Photo by Cheryl Crews

#### Spring Equinox Celebration

Saturday, March 23, 11 AM - 7 PM

Red Tent Sisterhood hosts a community celebration of the vernal equinox including Agnihotra Fire, healing arts, Dances of Universal Peace, drumming, storytelling, nature crafts, and a potluck meal.

892 Woodward Road, Sperryville  
All ages and genders welcome  
Suggested donation \$10 per family  
Details at [redtentsisterhood@livingsky.org](mailto:redtentsisterhood@livingsky.org)

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



### RAAC's annual fundraising drive Now in progress

By now you should have received a letter asking you to renew your financial support or begin supporting RAAC. Together with our friends and neighbors, we can Inspire Art and Build Community in our beautiful county.

Your donations allow our volunteers to run the programs that help make this such a vibrant place to live. We couldn't do it without you, so thanks for being a supporting member of the RAAC community!

We look forward to your membership in RAAC - **Thank You!**

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



### 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; please check often.

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

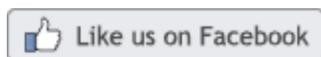
### Rappahannock Association for Arts and Community

PO Box 24  
Washington, VA 22747

1-800-695-6075

RAAC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization staffed by volunteers.

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



Copyright © 2019  
All Rights Reserved.

RAAC, PO Box 24, Washington, VA 22747