

RAAC Newsletter February 2016

Hello friends!

Welcome to this side of the holidays and the memorable arrival of winter!

RAAC's new season is under way, and I hope you're enjoying our programs to stimulate and entertain you in the company of friends and neighbors. As you'll see in the articles below, we have an enticing mix of movies, library talks, and Soup & Soul presentations during the winter months. And behind the scenes, rehearsals have begun for the "The Odd Couple" (Apr 1,2,3), and preparations for the second annual Film Festival at Little Washington (Apr 8-10) are in high gear. For those of you with reservations, please note that our snowed-out January Soup & Soul event featuring poet-photographer K.C. Bosch has been rescheduled for Feb 27.

RAAC's annual membership campaign begins in February - a letter should be arriving in your mailbox soon. Both your membership and contribution are vital to supporting RAAC's mission of building community through the arts.

Matthew Black, President, RAAC



RAAC Newsletter

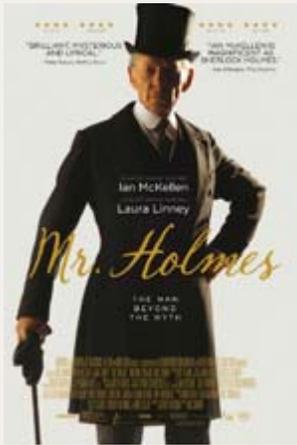
Vol 4, #2

Feb 2016

In this issue . . .

- Feb 5** First Friday at the Movies
"Mr. Holmes"
- Feb 12** Second Friday at the Library
John Isaacs
- Feb 20** Soup & Soul
Madison Chamber Players, string quartet
- Feb 27** *K.C. Bosch, poet/photographer (new date)*
- Mar 19** *Jordan Goldstein, architect*
- Mar 15** Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund
Calling all artists!
Applications for grants accepted
until Mar 15
- Apr 1,2,3** RAAC Community Theatre
"The Odd Couple"
- Apr 8-10** Film Festival at Little Washington
Featured attraction: kid's video hour
- Feature** RAAC membership drive
begins soon
- Feature** Meet Nedra Smith
RAAC Board member
- Feature** Art Beat Rappahannock
February 2016





First Friday at the Movies
"Mr Holmes"

Fri, Feb 5, 8pm, \$6
The Theatre At Washington
291 Gay Street, Washington, VA 22747

Starring Ian McKellen, Laura Linney,
Milo Parker, Hiroyuki Sanada
Director Bill Condon
Writers Mitch Cullin (novel), Jeffrey Hatcher,
(screenplay)

Drama, mystery; 104 minutes
Rated PG for thematic elements, some disturbing
images, and incidental smoking



Movie trailer
Click on the lower photo
to play the video.

Don't think you can take another Hollywood version of Sherlock Holmes? Snap out of it. Apologies to Robert Downey Jr. and Benedict Cumberbatch, but what Ian McKellen does with Arthur Conan Doyle's fictional detective in "Mr. Holmes" is nothing short of magnificent.

This is Holmes at 93, coping with a failing memory and living on a Sussex farm, where he tends bees and relies on a widowed cook (Laura Linney) and her 14-year-old son, Roger (Milo Parker), a sleuth in training. In flashbacks, Holmes is seen dealing with his last case and with a married woman (Hattie Morahan) who might have been his great love.

Director Bill Condon, who teamed superbly with McKellen on the Oscar-winning "Gods and Monsters," brings us a riveting character study of a lion not going gentle into winter.

(From a review by Peter Travers in Rolling Stone,
July 15, 2015)

Upcoming films:
"Ex Machina," Mar 4
"Testament of Youth," Apr 1
"Brooklyn," May 6

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



**Second Friday at the Library
John Isaacs**

**Fri, Feb 12, 8pm, Rappahannock County Library
4 Library Lane, Washington, VA 22747**

February's speaker is John Isaacs, a Senior Fellow at the Council for a Livable World, who is one of the leaders of the nation's arms control community.

Join us for this talk and discussion on foreign affairs and national security. Isaacs has worked for many years on such issues as Iraq, Congress, and nuclear weapons. How should we respond to Russia's belligerence in Ukraine, Crimea, and Syria? With ISIS a threat in the Middle East and at home, what can the US do?

For more information about the speaker, [click here](#).

The talk, which is sponsored by RAAC, is free. All are welcome.

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



Soup & Soul

Madison Chamber Players, string quartet

Sat, Feb 20

K.C. Bosch, poet/photographer

Sat, Feb 27 (new date)

Jordan Goldstein, architect

Sat, Mar 19

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.

All three events are currently sold out, but tickets are expected to become available. You are encouraged to place your name on the event's [wait list](#). Tickets are \$20 each per event.

February 20

Rappahannock resident **Al Regnery** and the three other musicians who form the string quartet known as the **Madison Chamber Players** have been playing together for 15 years. Their Soup & Soul presentation will feature music from different periods, historical and musical context for each piece, and perspective on the creative process for musicians who are part of a performing group.

February 27 (rescheduled date)

K.C. Bosch is a poet, photographer, and woodworker. Raised in a large military family, he lived and worked all over before settling in Rappahannock County, which has been his home and inspiration for the last two decades. His poetry can be found in literary journals such as "Camel Saloon," "Poetry Breakfast," "Dead Mule," and "Vox Poetica." "Stealing Days" is his first book. K.C. is also a recent recipient of a Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund grant.

March 19

As the managing director and principal at the Washington, DC outpost of Gensler, an international multidisciplinary design and architecture firm, architect **Jordan Goldstein** has won national and regional awards for excellence in architecture, interior design, and product design. He has been published in several design periodicals, including "Interior Design" and "Contract," and in The Washington Post. The house he designed for his family here in Rappahannock was featured in "Dwell" magazine, which quoted him as saying that "Connectivity was a driver when we set out to do this. To have greater connectivity as a family, and then connectivity to the land."

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



Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund
Calling all artists!
Applications for grants accepted until Mar 15

New grant guidelines and the application for 2016 are now available. Proposals are welcomed from emerging and established artists of all ages, arts organizations, arts programs within community-based organizations, collaborative projects, and especially projects with a community focus. All arts media are eligible - visual art, literature, music, film/video, dance, theater, and projects combining multiple media.

Since 2012 the Mitchell Fund has awarded more than \$70,000 in grants ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 to 39 local arts projects, nonprofit organizations, and emerging and established artists.

The deadline to apply is Mar 15. For details, including the application, eligibility, timetables, review process and list of previous grantees, click the link below.

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



RAAC Community Theatre

"The Odd Couple"

Fri, Apr 1, at 8pm

Sat, Apr 2, at 8pm

Sun, Apr 3, at 3 pm

310 Gay Street, Washington, VA 22747

"The Odd Couple" is one of Neil Simon's funniest and most loved plays. Running on Broadway for 964 performances, it has spawned countless productions around the world, as well as film and TV adaptations. Simon even wrote a female version of the play.

The story revolves around the conflict when two best friends - neatnik Felix Ungar and the slovenly Oscar Madison - share an apartment. Their natural differences are aided and abetted by their trash-talking poker buddies and the giggly, lascivious Pigeon sisters from upstairs. Despite the laugh-a-minute misunderstandings and bickering between Felix and Oscar, the play is an examination of the transformative power of friendship.

The cast features John Lesinski as Felix and Bob Hurley as Oscar. Patty Hardee directs.

Following the performances at the RAAC Community Theatre, the production will "go on tour" to perform Apr 8, 9, 10 at the Fauquier Community Theatre (FTC) located at Vint Hill outside Warrenton. RAAC and FTC have agreed to exchange productions from time to time to bring each other's audiences a variety of shows. No decision has been made about what show FTC will bring to RAAC either later this year or sometime in 2017.

Watch for information about reserving tickets at either venue.

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



Film Festival at Little Washington **Featured attraction: kids' video hour**

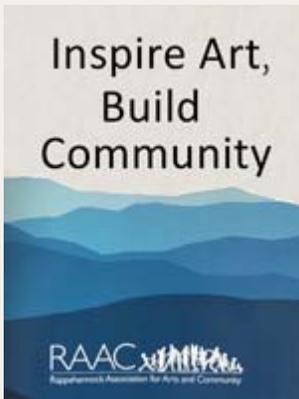
Fri-Sun, Apr 8-10

Film Festival planning is in high gear, and with the submission period ending recently, the screening committee is busy reviewing films from all over our beautiful state! 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 a special kids' video hour, showcasing works by students participating in the 4-H young filmmakers' club, as well as films by other county students. The creation of the 4-H Film Club was made possible in part by a grant from RAAC's Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund. Don't miss this opportunity to see the efforts of the filmmakers of tomorrow up on the big screen!

Interested in volunteering or sponsoring the festival? Click below for details and other festival information.

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



RAAC membership drive begins soon

Our annual membership drive is imminent, and you'll soon be receiving a letter inviting you to renew or join if you aren't already a member. Enclosed with our letter will be the new RAAC brochure describing our diverse arts programs and events offered throughout the year. We urge you to team with friends and neighbors in supporting RAAC. Together we can Inspire Art, Build Community!

RAAC membership is vital because it's the base for running our programs and sustaining our administrative infrastructure. Even though we're an all-volunteer organization, membership contributions are critical. Membership is also a bellwether of the community's commitment and belief in the arts as a community building block.

As noted in our recent "State of RAAC" message, RAAC is in great shape, full of vitality and fresh ideas. We've grown substantially over the past two years because of our membership and the hard work of talented volunteers.

RAAC continues to expand and enhance its programs, launch new ideas, and find interesting ways to collaborate with other organizations. We're excited about our momentum, and we're reassured and motivated by your membership support. We truly believe that the arts strengthen our community in ways that enliven all of us.

We look forward to your membership support - ***thank you!***

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



Meet Nedra Smith
RAAC Board member

Nedra Smith, the newest member of the RAAC Board, and her husband Hugh have owned a home in Rappahannock since 2004, but Nedra isn't new to the area. Although she grew up on the family farm in Nebraska, every summer she visited her mother's family, who had settled in this area in the 1600s.

Deciding to pursue a classical education in art, Nedra moved east to attend George Washington University. It was at GW she honed her love and appreciation for the arts that have played an important role throughout her life. After graduating, she stayed in the DC area and began a twenty-two year career as a graphic artist/art director.

Several years ago, at last turning to her first love, fine art, she has taken the opportunity to study with many of the top oil painters around the country. She now spends as much time as possible in her Virginia studio. An avid plein-air painter and traveler, her experiences are now documented on canvas.

Nedra is a member of the American Impressionist Society, Oil Painters of America, and the Loudoun County Sketch Club. She has served on the Castleton Festival Board for two years. Her work has been selected for nationally juried exhibitions and included in "Ones to Collect" and "Women in the Arts" in "Southwest Art" magazine.

Each November, Nedra participates in the Artists of Rappahannock Studio & Gallery Tour, which is where she learned of the amazing efforts and accomplishments that RAAC volunteers bring to Rappahannock.

Nedra and Hugh have a home in Destin, Florida, where they own and operate a retail business they opened in 1994 . . . originally planned to be a retirement project. "OK, so we haven't figured out 'retirement' yet, but someday when we do, it will be to this beloved countryside." As my grandmother once told me as a child, "You belong here."

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



Art Beat Rappahannock February 2016

Featuring non-RAAC arts events in Rappahannock County

Theater performances

- Feb 7, 2pm, **The Theatre at Washington, Virginia**, Rappahannock Lions Club Bland Music Contest
Feb 14, 3pm, Bill Harris, piano, A Valentine "Love Affair" with Tommy Cecil, bassist.
Feb 28, 3pm, Smithsonian at Little Washington, Haydn Piano Trios. [DETAILS](#)
- Feb 21, 4pm, **Castleton Festival**, "JP Jofre and the Hard Tango Chamber Band." [DETAILS](#)

Arts events

- Feb 1-Mar 21, Wed-Mon, 10am-5pm, Tues by appt, **Gay Street Gallery**, Winter Exhibition. [DETAILS](#)
- Feb 1-29, **Narmada Winery**, Donna Johnson, photography exhibition
Feb 13, 2-5pm, Valentine's Day Special, Julie Kasdorf, music. [DETAILS](#)
- Feb 6, 7, 13, 14, 11am-5pm, **Middle Street Gallery**, Members & Friends Exhibit. [DETAILS](#)
- Feb 6, 8pm, **Griffin Tavern**, Five by Five Band
Feb 13, 8pm, Vinyl Tracks, music
Feb 14, 7pm, Robbie Limon, music
Feb 19, 7:30pm, Master Jam DJ, music
Feb 27, 8pm, Ronnie Johnson Band, music
[DETAILS](#)

Check the event sponsor's website for schedule changes.

To submit an event, email artbeat@raac.org.

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

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

Rappahannock Association for Arts and Community

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

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