



RAAC Newsletter, December 2019

Hello friends!

Congratulations to Heather Wicke and her committee for an extraordinary Fall Art Tour. The broad consensus is that this was the best Tour ever--over 1,000 inquisitive visitors, record artwork sales, beautiful Tour gallery and celebratory reception for sponsors and artists, lots of local business customers, and good ol' fashion fun and excitement. And the crisp fall weather certainly deserves a shout out. Many thanks to the hard-working volunteers, generous sponsors, and participating artists who made the Fall Art Tour such a resounding success!

Our holiday production of *The Talented Clementine* opens December 6th and 7th at the RAAC Theatre, and runs the following weekend, December 13-15, evening and matinee performances. Come see your favorite young (and older but young at heart) stars perform in this uplifting and spirited musical. Tickets are now available online.

The Second Friday RAAC Talk on December 13th features journalist and neighbor Randy Rieland, who'll share what he's learned from reporting on challenging issues in Rappahannock County over the past three years. The title of his talk may not surprise many, *Simple Beauty, Complex Issues*--whether it's inadequate broadband and cell coverage, challenging of health care, aging fire and rescue volunteers, and more. Please join us at the Public Library at 8 pm.

Our ever-popular Soup & 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 tickets are available to the general public--stay tuned! Soup & Soul sells out within a day but we're usually able to accommodate folks on the wait lists, so don't hesitate to reserve.

RAAC Movies will resume in some form in the new year. In the meantime, we're digesting the results from our movie survey which closes on Monday, December 2nd. If you haven't already but wanted to take our 3-minute online survey, click on this link: [RAAC Movie Survey](#).

RAAC invites local artists and organizations to apply for 2020 Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund grants. Applications and guidelines will be available on December 1st on RAAC's website. All interested applicants are encouraged to attend our grant workshop at the Rappahannock County Library on December 14.

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

Thanks!

Matthew Black, President, RAAC



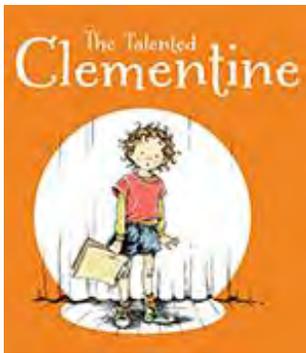
Events in December

Dec 6, 7:30pm ***The Talented Clementine***
Dec 7, 3pm RAAC Community Theatre
Dec 13, 7:30pm Dec 7 & Dec 14 include
Dec 14, 3pm Talkback sessions with
Dec 15, 3pm directors and cast

Dec 13, 8pm **Randy Reiland, RappNews journalist**
 2nd Friday RAAC Talk
 Rappahannock County Library

Dec 14, 10am **Mitchell Arts Fund workshop**
 If you're thinking about applying,
 come hear all about how.
 Rappahannock County Library

News and updates below **Soup and Soul, 2020 announcement**
Community Theater's next play
Fall Art Tour Report
Reading Series Report
Mitchell Fund Grantee Updates



The Talented Clementine **RAAC Community Theatre**

Friday, Dec 6, 7:30pm
Saturday, Dec 7, 3pm
Friday, Dec 13, 7:30pm
Saturday, Dec 14, 3pm
Sunday, Dec 15, 3pm



The cast of *The Talented Clementine* learns choreography at Mountainside Dance Center

The RAAC Community Theatre is well into rehearsals for its holiday play, *The Talented Clementine*. The play is about a spirited elementary school girl who says she can't take part in the school talent show because... she has no talent. Or so she thinks.

Kid Pan Alley's Paul Reisler adapted Sara Pennypacker's popular children's book for the stage. And added songs from Kid Pan Alley's many kids' songwriting workshops and school residencies, such as *The Dog Did My Homework and I Accidentally Ate It* and *Sister for Sale*.

RAAC Theatre Artistic Director Patty Hardee directs. Cheryl Toth, also with Kid Pan Alley, is the Music Director.

When the cast of 16+ kids isn't working on the RAAC Theatre stage, they are learning choreography from Anne Williams, Philip Rosemond, and Kitty Keyser at Williams' Mountainside Dance Center.

As Patty says, "This is the show that puts the community in community theatre."

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



Randy Rieland

Randy Rieland 2nd Friday RAAC Talks

**Friday, Dec 13, 8pm
Rappahannock County Library**

The 2nd Friday RAAC Talk will feature the journalist Randy Rieland telling us about what he has learned in his close-up examinations of Rappahannock County. He calls his talk "Simple Beauty, Complex Place."

For the past three years, Rieland has written about some of the bigger challenges facing the county - from spotty cell and broadband service to the aging volunteer fire and rescue squads to limited health care options. Through the many interviews for those stories in the Rappahannock News, he has come to better appreciate how, for all its seeming simplicity, this is one complicated community.

Rieland has been a newspaper and magazine editor and writer for more than 25 years. He has written for the Washingtonian, Johns Hopkins Magazine, and Smithsonian. He also worked in digital media for 17 years, and served as the head of digital media for the Discovery Channel. He and his wife Carol Ryder live in DC and in Rappahannock.

[Click to visit 2nd Friday RAAC Talks webpage.](#)



Mitchell Arts Fund Grant Workshop Calling all artists and arts programs!

**Saturday, Dec 14, 10am to noon
Rappahannock County Library**

All past and prospective applicants are encouraged to attend.

Members of the Mitchell Arts Fund committee will go over the 2020 grant application & new guidelines and will answer your questions about submitting a proposal.

Application and Guidelines for 2020 grants will be available December 1 on RAAC's website raac.org. Grant applications are due by March 15, with notification of awards by late May. Since 2012, RAAC has awarded \$209,000 to 56 Rappahannock artists and organizations--inspiring art and building community!

[Click to visit 2nd Friday Mitchell Fund webpages.](#)

Soup and Soul 2020 Announcement

For two decades, RAAC's Soup and Soul evenings have



featured a pot-luck dinner in a host home, along with a presentation by a local artist about his/her work and creative process. We have another exciting line-up of artists on tap for the 2020 Soup and Soul season, all of whom are veterans of RAAC's Fall Art Tour.

**Gary Anthes, Photographer
(Saturday, January 18)**

Gary is a semi-retired journalist and an avid amateur photographer who travels the world but spends his home-time in Castleton and Arlington. He has lived and photographed in Rappahannock County for the past 40 years, and is a member of the Middle Street Gallery. He will share his images, writings, and musing in a presentation, *Life and Death on Both Sides of the Lens*.

**Kat Habib, Ceramic artist, and Jen Cable, floral artist
(Saturday, February 15)**

Kat Habib is a Sperryville-based ceramics artist and florist whose technique focuses on hand building and sculpture. Kat draws her inspiration from nature, a background in art conservation, and the unique "personalities" of various clay bodies. All of her work is made with stoneware clay using hand building methods of coils or slabs--nothing is thrown on the pottery wheel. Flowers are Kat's other artistic medium of choice as these also play with the tenets of color, line, form and composition. Kat began working with Jen Cable, owner of Flourish Root Florals, in September, 2013, and they will share their collaborative process, through which each influences the other.

**Davette Leonard, still-life painter
(Saturday, March 21)**

Davette has been living and working in Rappahannock for over three decades and is a master of creating mood and drama in her still-life paintings, employing a wide diversity of natural objects as inspiration (grape vines, shells, quail eggs, silver bowls and fabrics).

As in the past, one privilege of RAAC membership is early notification when Soup and Soul tickets go on sale. **This year, RAAC members will receive an email on Wednesday, December 4th with a special link to ticket sales. After that, ticket sales will be open to the public on Friday, Dec. 6. Tickets go quickly for this popular series, so be ready to sign up on those December dates.**

[Click to visit Soup and Soul webpages.](#)

**RAAC Community Theater
Next play: *The Good Doctor***

Watch for audition announcements for a production of Neil Simon's *The Good Doctor*. The play is made up of comedy sketches spoofing the short stories of Anton Chekhov, who as a physician was known to his friends as "the good doctor." Director Patty Hardee is also looking for people who have an interest in directing or learning to direct but who don't feel ready to take on a full production. Each sketch in the play is about 10 minutes

long. Likewise, Patty encourages anyone to audition who would like to act, but again doesn't feel ready--or have the time--for a full-length play.

Auditions will be held in January. The production will be in late April or early May. WATCH FOR DETAILS!

Click to visit RAAC's Community Theater webpage.



Artists of Rappahannock 15th Annual Fall Art Tour Report

Fall Art Tour weekends don't get any better than this year. The sunshine and glorious fall colors combined with the efforts of RAAC's talented artists, gallery owners, organizers, volunteers, and community members made for a standout 15th Annual Tour. It was declared a success by the artists, visitors from near and far and by local businesses.

Many thanks to our band of dedicated RAAC volunteers for creating a weekend of magic and experiences for more than 1000 Tour visitors. Over 120 artists at 27 open studios and 12 galleries displayed their extraordinary talents and efforts in creating the excitement that emanated from the Main Gallery at the Washington School throughout the County.

Local families enjoyed visiting the Main Gallery to view the impressive works of their students from Belle Meade, RCES, RCHS, and Wakefield.

Our deep thanks go to the many vital sponsors of the Tour, whose names were featured on the banners inside the Main Gallery. Their donations will go toward funding arts programs throughout the year through competitive grants awarded by RAAC's Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund.

Click to visit RAAC's Art Tour webpages.



RAAC Reading Series

The second installment in the RAAC Reading Series took place at Quievremont Winery on November 9. Attendees enjoyed wine and light hors d'oeuvres during the initial social hour, then settled in for an hour of literary entertainment that opened with Stephanie (Deedee) Slewka sharing a short memoir selection. Poet Emily Hancock followed, reading selections from several of her poetry collections and wowing the audience with the beautifully bound books produced by her St. Brigid Press. Keynote reader Cliff Garstang closed out the evening with excerpts from his most recent novel, *The Turtle of Shaman Valley*.

We are already planning the next installment in the RAAC Reading Series, which will take place early in 2020. Stay tuned for further updates!

For more information about this reading or the Reading Series in general, click [here](#).

Mitchell Arts Fund Grantee Updates



In celebration of their 20th Anniversary, **Kid Pan Alley** has released their 5th studio album, *Best Friends*. It features songs written with kids, for kids--performed by some of the best-known children's artists in the country including Lisa Loeb, Randy Kaplan, Sonia De Los Santos, Bill Harley, Robbie Schaefer, John McCutcheon and many more. "Eclectic and delightful, *Best Friends* is a joy to experience and share, highly recommended," said Midwest Book Review.

It's available at www.KidPanAlley.org/store and at Before and After in Sperryville.



Clayton Pearson's wood shop is up and running with a new lathe and tools thanks to his 2019 Mitchell Fund grant. The 2018 Rappahannock High School graduate and contractor's apprentice creates handsome pens and other products from deer horns, as well as custom furniture and kitchen products from dogwood, white oak, American chestnut and apple. Clayton's Mitchell Fund committee liaison and mentor Nol Putnam remarked, "This young man seems to have it all together!... just the kind of person I would want working with me--on time, straightforward, engaged and committed. And oh those pens!" You can meet Clayton and see (and purchase) some of his products at the Christmas Market in Washington on Sunday, December 8.



Belle Meade School students in grades 6 through 12 created an impressive collaborative artwork entitled *Open a Door to Rappahannock* that was funded by a 2019 Mitchell Fund grant. This fall, under the direction of art teacher Becky Glass, each student was given a recycled interior door to paint a mural based on images and research on Rappahannock County. Using their own unique style and imagination, they created individual murals that were then hinged together to create one large screen. The Belle Meade screen graced the stage of the Art Tour Gallery at the Washington School in November.

Click to visit RAAC's Mitchell Arts Fund webpages.



RAAC on Facebook

Do you have photographs taken at RAAC or RAAC-sponsored events that we could share on our **Facebook** pages? We'd love to see them, and if we end up posting your photos, we will give you a shout-out as the photographer!

Be sure to identify the event and where a photo was taken. It would be great if you could let us know who's in the photo as well.

Send your submissions to info@raac.org.

Click [HERE](#) to visit the comprehensive local events calendar hosted by Rappahannock.com.

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.

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

Email us at
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