July is the CCAA's new fiscal year. As this new year begins, a new round of arts programming is put in place to promote, stimulate, and reflect the creative spirit of Charles County. While the arts are still very much alive throughout the county, we are all looking ahead with a certain amount of angst and uncertainty about when, where, how, and what the arts will look like in person.

Over the last few months, the arts have been at the virtual forefront of connecting people and places in a variety of ways, amid a global pandemic. Although many questions have yet to be answered, one thing is certain, the arts are alive and active. Evidence is seen across the county as artists and arts organizations use their creativity to engage, heal, and provide creative outlets for the people of Charles County. Since March, local virtual arts programming has offered literary events, puppet shows, talent shows, music concerts, and dance classes. There continues to be something for everyone, and the CCAA encourages everyone to continue checking the weekly Arts Newsflash and social media to find something that suits you.

As mentioned in the Maryland State Arts Council’s video, The Arts are Waiting for You, included in this month's newsletter, “we are still here.” The Charles County Arts Alliance has served Charles County since 1987. We are still here and intend to continue our work through purposeful collaborations with the Charles County community and the continued support of our members.

The CCAA extends its deepest gratitude to all its members and is preparing to meet this yet unknown new normalcy, as a stronger partner and promoter of all the arts in Charles County.
In Loving Memory...

He had a special energy that we will all miss.
Robert Rausch

Colin was fun to talk to, and a very nice person. I think we’ll miss his input.
Keith

Colin Mably, CCAA Board Member
DECEMBER 25, 1942 - MAY 31, 2020

Imaginative, brilliant, whimsical, entertaining, delightful, colorful, joyful! Colin Mably and his wonderful illustrations brought a smile to everyone. I am very honored to have known Colin; he was an immensely talented and charming individual. His passing was a terrible shock and has left a void in the universe that cannot be filled.
Judy Crawford

Our family was so very sorry to hear of Mr. Mably’s passing. Although our interaction was brief, he expressed so much encouragement and support during the scholarship meeting. He also followed up with Kasey by email, saying he hoped fortune would guide her steps. We are thankful for having met him, and want to express our condolences to his colleagues and those he loved.
Karen Chavis Murphy
Colin William Fisher Mably, 77, of LaPlata, MD passed away on May 31, 2020 at the University of MD Charles Regional Medical Center.

Born in London on December 25, 1942 to the late Percy Mably and Ethel (Fisher) Mably, he is also preceded in death by his brother, Michael Mably. Colin is survived by his wife, Ann Benbow; sons, Samuel J. Mably and Thomas L. Mably; daughter, Hannah L. Mably; step-sons, Samuel K. Benbow and Daniel J. Benbow; step-daughter, Jessica S. Benbow; sister, Elizabeth (Mably) Morgan; and grandchildren, Jake, Sophie, Alex and Olivia Mably.

Colin helped numerous people and touched many lives in his career as a brilliant and inspiring teacher, educator, project evaluator, author, film maker, musician and illustrator. He was a co-founder of the International Society for Teacher Education and its Secretary General for many years. He began his career in education as a first-grade teacher in London and eventually became former Principal Lecturer at Northeast London University. He has co-authored textbooks and trade books in science with his wife and recently joined the Board of the Charles County Arts Alliance. Colin was a fantastic cook and incomparable host and raconteur. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.
**In Loving Memory...**

Colin was a gentle soul who made his presence known. He had a team player-like mentality, which contributed a great deal to the Arts Alliance. I’m glad to have crossed paths with him, although his timing with us was shorter than expected. May he know rest in eternal peace.

Johnathon C.

Always a gentleman with a sense of humor.

Gale

It was such a pleasure meeting and working with Colin as members of the Board of Directors for the CCAA. He was always sincere, kind, and thoughtful. In our short time working together, he had already begun to make an impact on the organization with the leading of several projects including the bylaws review process. I pray for strength and warmth for his family, knowing that Colin’s positive impact on the CCAA will always be remembered.

Angelica Jackson

His infectious smile, paired with an endless encouraging spirit is what I will remember most and try to pass on to others.

Monique Walker
From the Board

At the June 2020 CCAA Board of Directors meeting, Board members provided updates on their activities and all were most moved by Barbara Lord Graves' letter from her student Rebecca, who misses taking ballet classes with her. We hope Rebecca and Director Graves will be back together soon!

(Take a little look in)

Dear Miss Barbara, the bad

I hope I get back into ballet class, and I hope you are feeling well, that no plague enters your house.

I miss you and I hope we see each other soon, and I hope that you are enjoying a bit. Love, Rebea

God bless you
My COVID-19 Story: May This Never Be My New Normal
By Pastor Cheryl Gaines, Esq.

For the first time today, I cried. I didn’t cry because I have been isolated in my room for eighteen days. Nor did I cry because of the pain in my chest and lungs that has been so excruciating that it literally takes my breath away with every cough. None of those things have elicited a single tear. But when my six-year-old grandson, cried because he misses me, I cried. I cried because just like he misses the caresses of his Nana, Nana misses the caresses of her grandchildren. I miss him and his four-year-old sister, running around my house.

I miss them falling down because they are running in their socks despite my pleas to, “at least take your socks off before you start running around, so you won’t hurt yourself.”

I miss their toys in all-the-wrong-places and I miss the loving way they play together until one of them gets on the other’s nerves and they start fighting. Yes, I even miss the fighting and the counsel to, “Never hit your little sister;” and, “Stop trying to bully your brother just because you are the little sister.”

I cried because my grandson’s tears didn’t stop when I asked him to hug his mother for me, so he could feel a loving touch to soothe his longing heart.

And I cried when he said as he returned from the caress, “And I miss Daddy, too.”

Daddy, my son, is incarcerated. I think one can only imagine the heart of a mother whose son is incarcerated in congregate living during a virus like the pandemic we are now facing. I cried because my son, a first-time nonviolent offender, who was, I feel, treated like a Mob Boss instead of the man, husband, father, son—and the U.S. Army veteran, he is—who made an awful mistake and a bad choice, one time.

My son entered a plea to a one-time drug offense and there were plenty of character witnesses at his sentencing, including the representatives of an alternative program, willing to take him in and put him to work for the good of the community, and at-risk youth.

But I can’t help wondering if it was his blackness that ironically made the black judge tell all the character witnesses, “You don’t know him. I do,” when he proceeded to sentence my son to the harshest sentence that I have ever seen despite my 30 years of practice in the same profession that allowed the judge to make that sentence.

Today, I know that though my tears and my grandson’s tears were sparked by our longing to see one another. I also know that there are thousands of black mothers and grandmothers...
like me who know that their sons, and others, who are nonviolent, who contributed to society in meaningful ways, like military service, but who are locked up, though not isolated, like me, during this era of COVID-19, could be home to embrace their children. They could be home to provide the familial leadership needed in such a time as this. They could once again enter society to provide meaningful economic contributions and to support families like mine.

Today, due to COVID-19, I cried. But this is not my new normal, and never shall it be.

About the Author...

Rev. Cheryl Mitchell Gaines, Esq., lives in Washington, D.C., is a senior pastor of an inner-city church, and is the author of the children’s book, titled KwesiMan and Fuzzyland. It delights all young readers and informs parents about the growing prevalence of children who are suffering from asthma, especially in black communities—and it offers solutions. She is also a member of the Life Journeys Writers Guild, Inc. Pastor Gaines has recovered and is working to gain a Compassionate Release for her son, and others like him.
The July edition of the Maryland State Arts Council’s, *Arts News from Around the State*, shares that:

The staff of the Maryland State Arts Council continues to be available for conversations, professional development and general support. A new professional development series, ENVISION, launches in July. Some examples of ongoing and upcoming virtual interactions include Envisioning Online Engagement (through the sharing of digital strategies), Envisioning Programming (through legal workshops with Maryland Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts), and Envisioning our Communities (through a weekly story share focused on resilience).

*Ken Skrzesz, Executive Director, Maryland State Arts Council*

In addition to the programs listed below, there a host of funding, professional development, and arts education opportunities and resources offered through the MSAC and the Maryland State Department of Education. For more information, visit [www.msac.org](http://www.msac.org) and [www.msdefinearts.org](http://www.msdefinearts.org).

**MSAC ENVISION Series:** Focusing on Possibilities

**MSDE EMBRACE:** Exploring the Intersections of Art and Wellness

**MSDE Statewide Arts Resources:** Arts Together; Social Emotional Learning Through the Arts

The MSAC has also created the video, *The Arts are Waiting for You*, as a reminder that artists around Maryland are still creating and are eager to share their work as we all navigate through the current pandemic. Click [here](http://www.msac.org) to view the video. 🎥
Thanks CCAA Members for Your Support!

Platinum Circle
Charlotte & Abbott Martin
Diane Rausch
Robert K. Rausch

Corporate
Community Bank of the Chesapeake

Gold Circle
Ron & Marti Brown
Andy & Jessica Dixon
Bert & Emily Ferren
David & Nikole Smith
Chris & Kate Zabriskie

Silver Circle
Michael & Anne Creveling
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Golden Renaissance Jewellers
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Family
Jessica Andrews
Angelique Berry
Amy Blessinger
Burkey & Margaret Boggs
James Brewster
Suzanne & William Cassidy
Richard & Margery Coppola
William F. Eckman

Non-Profit Organization
African American Heritage Society of Charles County
Charles County Department of Community Services
Charles County Fair, Inc.
Charles County Public Library
Chesapeake Choral Arts Society
Friends of Chapman State Park
Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities
Life Journeys Writers Guild
Maryland Writers Association - Charles County Chapter
Mattawoman Creek Art Center
Music Teachers Association of Charles County, Inc.
Nanjemoy Community Center
Port Tobacco Players
Sagepoint Senior Living Services
Southern Maryland Carousel Group
Southern Maryland Decorative Painters
Town of Indian Head

Senior
Ruth Bailey
Norma Baretincic
Cindi Barnhart
Susie Bender
Virginia Bridges
Judy Burch
Rose Burroughs
Judy E. Cabos
Carol Y. Charnock
Brenda Clayburn
Martha Knight Clements
Carol Corbett
Dorothy Crown
Frank M. Culhane
M. Evelyn Dashell
Jack Dennis
Dolly Dilatash
Cecelia Dunay
Patricia Duncan
Nora Eicholtz
Gale Y. Euchner
Geary Fisher
Gwendolyn A. Fleming
Penelope H. Gold
Richard Gold
Sally Marie Goldsmith
Barbara Lord Graves
Joyce Williams Graves
William M. Graves
Doris J. Hall
Gary Hammack
Billie Harley
Bernadette Harmon
Patricia P. Harrington
Carl F. Harris
Sally Hopp
Charles F.M. Hughes

We Love Our Members

Youth
Kayla Berry
Ja Leana Graves
Jaden Hendricks
Joshua Owen
Cali Quade
Show Your Support for the Arts by Joining the CCAA!

The benefits of CCAA membership last year-round:
- CCAA Arts Insider monthly E-newsletter
- CCAA Arts Newsflash weekly E-update of arts events
- $1 discount for each ticket purchased for Port Tobacco Players theatrical productions
- CCAA voting privileges
- And most importantly, the satisfaction that comes from actively supporting the arts in Charles County!

Membership Categories (check one):
- □ Platinum Circle – $500
- □ Gold Circle – $250
- □ Silver Circle – $150
- □ Arts Patron – $125
- □ Arts Sponsor – $100
- □ Arts Activist – $75
- □ Family – $50
- □ Individual – $30
- □ Senior (60+) – $20
- □ Youth (under 18) – $10

Business & Nonprofit:
- □ Corporate – $500
- □ Business – $250
- □ Nonprofit Organization – $75
- □ Other (Donations) __________

Want to volunteer? We'd love the help!
- □ ArtsFest Committee
- □ Budget/Finance/Audit Committee
- □ Scholarship Committee
- □ Events Committee
- □ Gallery Committee
- □ Grant Committee
- □ Membership Committee
- □ Outreach/Marketing Committee
- □ Administrative/Office Work
- □ Technical/IT Support

The CCAA is an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization.

All membership dues and donations are 100 percent tax-deductible.

Charles County Arts Alliance
P.O. Box 697, White Plains, MD 20695
www.charlescountyarts.org / 301–392–5900
info@charlescountyarts.org
Master Calendar **FY 2020**

### 2019

- **Saturday, July 13, 10:00 am – Noon**
  - **CCAA Board Meeting**
  - United Way House, La Plata

- **Wednesday, July 17, 5:30 pm**
  - **Artists without Limits’ Public Reception**
  - Charles County Commissioners Gallery

- **Saturday, August 3, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**
  - **CCAA Summer Retreat**
  - Solomons, MD

- **Saturday, September 7, 10:00 am – Noon**
  - **CCAA Board Meeting**
  - United Way House, La Plata

- **Thursday – Sunday, September 12 – 15**
  - **Charles County Fair, P.D. Brown Fine Arts Building**
  - Charles County Fairgrounds, La Plata

- **Saturday, October 5, 10:00 am – Noon**
  - **CCAA Board Meeting**
  - United Way House, La Plata

- **Saturday, October 19, 2:00 – 4:00 pm**
  - **Meet the Artists Public Reception**
  - Waldorf West Library

- **Saturday, November 2, 10:00 am – Noon**
  - **CCAA Board Meeting**
  - United Way House, La Plata

- **Saturday, November 16, 6:00 – 10:00 pm**
  - **CCAA Annual Gala**
  - Old Waldorf School, Waldorf

- **Saturday, December 7, 10:00 am – Noon**
  - **CCAA Board Meeting**
  - United Way House, La Plata

### 2020

- **Saturday, January 25, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm**
  - **CCAA Mid-Winter Retreat**
  - Waldorf West Library

- **Saturday, February 12, 7:30 – 9:30 pm**
  - **CCAA Board Meeting**
  - United Way House, La Plata

- **Thursday, February 13, 8:15 am – 2:00 pm**
  - **Maryland Arts Day**
  - Annapolis, MD

- **Saturday, March 14, 10:30 – 11:30 am**
  - **CCAA Board Meeting**
  - Old Waldorf School, Waldorf

- **Sunday, March 29, 1:00 pm - POSTPONED**
  - **Poetry On Stage and Writers Unite Seminar**
  - Old Waldorf School, Waldorf

- **Saturday, April 4, 10:00 am – Noon**
  - **CCAA Board Meeting**
  - United Way House, La Plata

- **Saturday, May 9, 2:00 – 4:00 pm**
  - **CCAA Annual Membership Reception and Meeting**
  - Virtual Meeting

- **Friday through Sunday, June 12 – 14 - CANCELED**
  - **ArtsFest Weekend**

- **Saturday, June 13, 10:00 am - Noon**
  - **CCAA Board Meeting**
  - Virtual Meeting

**FY 2021 CALENDAR AVAILABLE:**
**AUGUST 2020 ARTS INSIDER**

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Note: Dates and times may be subject to change.
Arts Insider

Board of Directors
Robert K. Rausch – President
Cindy Johnson – Vice President
Ronald G. Brown – Secretary/Treasurer
Gale S. Kladitis – Past President
Johnathon Clinkscales – Director
Barbara Lord Graves – Director
Bill Graves – Director
Angelica Jackson – Director
Keith Linville – Director
Lew McIntyre – Director
Diane Rausch – Director
Fraser Tuffee – Director
Cindi Barnhart – Honorary Board Member
Monique Walker – Administrative Director
Mary Whitmore – Administrative Specialist

www.charlescountyarts.org
info@charlescountyarts.org 301–392–5900
Office Hours: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm, Tuesday – Friday
Street Address: 10250 La Plata Road, La Plata, MD 20646

July 2020

The purpose of art is to lay bare the questions that have been concealed by the answers.

James Baldwin