The annual CCAA Membership Meeting will be held Saturday, May 9, 2:00 pm and take place virtually via Zoom. Members will be given meeting details and login information in a separate email. We are looking forward to connecting with our members, providing updates on our current state of affairs, and asking members to vote on the proposed changes to the Bylaws as recommended by the Board of Directors. Click HERE to review the complete Bylaws and proposed changes.

During the meeting we will also recognize the 2020 CCAA Arts Scholarship recipients:

Olivia Gordon & Lauren Ware, La Plata High School
Kasey Murphy, Maurice J. McDonough High School
Chandler Bell, North Point High School
Jacob Waddell, Thomas Stone High School
Nyla Morrison, St. Charles High School

For more information, contact the CCAA at info@charlescountyarts.org.
Dear Friends of the CCAA,

I hope that each of you are healthy and safe, managing to remain indoors as much as possible. It has been six or seven weeks since we were advised to stay indoors and only a few weeks since we have been advised to wear masks when we are in public. Hopefully, all of you are following those instructions and thus protecting yourself and others from possibly transmitting the virus.

The many arts activities canceled have, in some cases left a “black hole” in our continuing cultural experiences and participation. For others, it has been an opportunity to try some new artistic activities in order to fill the void. Those who are gallery lovers can view virtually the work of the Masters by going to the websites of major art galleries, or enjoy our Flashback Gallery Tours of area artists, which we are sharing at noon on Sundays and Wednesdays. This is only one way you can continue to grow in the arts. You can also read a play you might have gone to or a book you never had the time to read. Try sketching, painting (by numbers if needed), or working with clay, or trying your hand at some simple carving.

And let us not forget listening to our favorite soloists, groups, or symphony orchestras. Anything you can do to “feed your soul” will help to improve your attitude and raise your spirits.

Unfortunately, the CCAA has also had to cancel several events thanks to Covid-19. The most recent is ArtsFest 2020, scheduled for June 13th. Although we attempted to find a date later in the Fall, we were unable to secure a date or venue. So, we can only say: Make Sure You Don’t Miss ArtsFest 2021.

In the area of postponements, I would like to remind you that our Annual Membership Meeting has been moved from May 2nd to May 9th. The time will still start at 2:00 pm and a Zoom link will be sent out to all our members on Wednesday, May 6th with a reminder message on Saturday morning at 10:00 am.

At this meeting you will vote on a few Bylaw changes, meet our Board members, and meet this year's Scholarship Recipients. So, make sure you Zoom in on May 9th at 2:00 pm. Hoping for a better Summer for the arts!

Sincerely,

Robert

Robert K. Rausch

President, Charles County Arts Alliance
Have You Watched Our Flashback Gallery Tours?

"Loved it"

- YouTube Comment

While we continue to Stay-At-Home, the CCAA has introduced The Flashback Gallery Tour, showcasing our archived virtual exhibits. These tours are sent out at noon every Wednesday and Sunday, and have given us all a chance to reflect on how far the CCAA and local artists have come and how we can continue to grow. The world can check out our YouTube page to see the exhibits and on occasion hear original compositions by Charles County's own, Dr. Mary C. Whitmore. Click HERE to see our latest tour.

ArtsFest 2020 is Canceled

It is with grave disappointment the CCAA announces ArtsFest 2020 has been cancelled due to safety concerns. We have made several attempts to reschedule, however, the current stay-at-home directive presents a lot of uncertainty for the immediate future and making rescheduling impossible. We now set our sights on ArtsFest 2021.

We look forward to the resurgence of our arts community on the other side of this pandemic. Your support of ArtsFest is deeply appreciated and we look forward to sharing the day with you next year. 😊
Creative Conversations Reflection, Music by Mary C. Whitmore

The floor was opened with the prompt: "What choices are you making that you would like to share?" Some ideas that were shared: Using Zoom to conduct online "rehearsals" focusing on musicianship and sectional practice. Some groups are broadcasting past concerts, or offering free online classes & lessons nightly or weekly (while pursuing the prospect of starting to charge money for these). Some performers are conducting live concerts at home – a kind of "salon session." Some musicians are collaborating by recording their part and editing the parts together in a video. A music education blog was shared. Someone suggested conducting digital interviews with performers and artists. As in the Arts in Education seminar, the idea of a virtual meetup or cocktail hour is popular now. In this seminar, it was a "Teaching Artist Café" for networking and sharing ideas and techniques. There was a lot of discussion and airing-of-grievances over SBA loans and PPP; MSAC's director suggested using small community banks with whom your organization has a personal relationship to apply for these programs with more success.

MSAC currently has an advisory committee to guide the transition back to normalcy once conditions are safe. In response to the question "What are your ideas for an Arts Resurgence?" Livestreaming/hybrid performances were suggested, for use as fundraisers to sustain performing groups. A freelancer suggested petitioning to "rig the tax code" by providing breaks or incentives to encourage businesses to hire & program performing artists once things reopen. Someone asked for advice on how to retain current patrons, as many are declining to renew memberships citing fears over coronavirus and the future of the performing arts. The importance of the arts as a part of economic recovery should be advertised and will hopefully help to ease these fears. MSAC encouraged investigating a program called "CrowdCast" that they plan to use for the MD Arts Summit next month.

After the seminar I considered these suggestions and realized many of them require familiarity with video technology and video-editing software. This led to the idea of creating and sharing
video tutorials on how to record, edit, and publish content as a performer. Tutorials would give viewers the basic knowledge required to use programs like Adobe Premiere, Final Cut Pro, Windows Movie Maker, and Apple iMovie. Tutorials could cover hardware suggestions – what types of cameras/microphones work best for recording acoustic performance. Another could describe the best way to set up your recording space. Maybe an overview of websites that offer subscription content service, like Patreon. In the future, it may be worth looking into how to restrict some of these tutorials to “members only” to help boost new membership to CCAA.

In addition to Music, CCAA representatives attended conversations in Public Art, Theater, Dance, Literary Arts, Arts in Education, and Independent Artists. Some conversations were found to be more beneficial than others, but overall there are many questions looming across the state regarding the future of the arts. With that in mind, the MSAC is organizing a Task Force, post Creative Conversations, to tackle this uncertainty and looking to map out a plan for a resurgence of the Maryland’s arts sector.

Here is a list of useful resources shared across all the conversations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Online Arts Education Resources and Guides</th>
<th><a href="https://bit.ly/MDOnlineLearning">https://bit.ly/MDOnlineLearning</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MSDE Online Resources</td>
<td><a href="https://www.msdefinearts.org/md-resources">https://www.msdefinearts.org/md-resources</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covid-19 Updates</td>
<td><a href="https://tinyurl.com/MSACCOVID19">https://tinyurl.com/MSACCOVID19</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSAC Program-Specific Updates</td>
<td><a href="https://www.msac.org/programs">https://www.msac.org/programs</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee with Ken</td>
<td><a href="https://tinyurl.com/coffeewithken">https://tinyurl.com/coffeewithken</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEMS Embrace-Intersection of Art and Wellness</td>
<td><a href="https://aems-edu.org/covid-19-resources/embrace/">https://aems-edu.org/covid-19-resources/embrace/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>AEMS artlookMaryland</td>
<td><a href="https://aems-edu.org/artlook-maryland/">https://aems-edu.org/artlook-maryland/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Grants</td>
<td><a href="https://www.msac.org/grants/emergency-grant">https://www.msac.org/grants/emergency-grant</a></td>
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CCAA Around Town - Covid-19 Journal by Ron Brown, CCAA Treasurer

How are you capturing or coping with the unprecedented? Ron shared with us his journal and a few pictures from the community as he writes regularly about his thoughts and experiences while being quarantined. These excerpts from his journal are an excellent example of how we can cope and reflect while staying at home.

Sunday afternoon, April 12, 2020

I know this is a late beginning since the novel coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic began to impact the nation, Maryland, and Charles County gravely around mid-March; but I thought perhaps it is better late than never to begin this endeavor.

My story is not going to be as powerful as those in the medical profession or first responders or those toiling in grocery stores and pharmacies who are battling in their own ways the COVID-19 virus across Charles County, Maryland, and the US. It will certainly be less than compelling than that of a coronavirus survivor.

Significant changes have already happened to mitigate the spread of the virus, from government closings at various levels, to restaurants closing their doors or limiting services to home delivery or curbside pickups, and even churches closing and/or turning to livestreaming to reach their congregations. Some governments are now requiring people to wear face masks when going into public places.

The list of changes is not intended to be a complete list of what has been closed or had its operations altered; but I hope it provides a picture of what is being experienced in Charles County is pretty much what is being experienced nationwide. Many Americans are having to shelter in place and are encouraged to go out only as needed.

Coronavirus.maryland.gov is a website that has been providing updates for the impact of COVID-19 in the state. The unfortunate statistics provided as follows are for MD to date: there are confirmed virus cases 8,225 and 235 deaths. Specifically, these are the confirmed cases for the following counties: Charles 253, Calvert 90, and St. Mary’s 82. Charles County is 8th highest in the state, Calvert 11th and St. Mary’s 12th.

What follows are some headlines from front page articles in the Washington Post.

“States compete for supplies in a cutthroat market” is about the Trump Administration placing the responsibilities on the states to competitively bid for protective medical gear while also competing with the federal government.

“U.S. death top 20,000, exceeding the total in Italy; All States now in a state of emergency” marks the U.S. as the leading nation in the loss of lives from the coronavirus.

My wife and I are retired and healthy, so far. We do not have to venture out of our house to go to work, we do not have to shop much since it is just the two of us, and we have never been cabin fever sufferers.
Tuesday night, April 21, 2020

My cellphone has an app for the local NBC Channel 4 television station news. When I opened the cellphone this morning, my eyes immediately and surprisingly rested on the following news item posted by the news app: ‘At least three residents of a nursing home in Charles County had died from COVID-19, their relatives say...’ The rest of the story states that over one hundred seniors have tested positive for the coronavirus at the six nursing home and three have died at one nursing home. The grieving relatives wanted the state to intervene; they questioned the ability of the home staff to treat and take care of their patients. Dr. Howard Haft who is the Executive Director of Maryland Primary Care program stated that there was no need for the state to send help. The nursing homes in the county that we have seen are “...doing an extraordinarily good job...” of providing service to their patients.

My eyes flash open and ears perk up when I hear something about Charles County in the news. I always hope it is good; but, unfortunately, the news is sometimes bad such as the above story. The particular Charles County nursing home is sadly not alone in experiencing high numbers of coronavirus cases and resulting deaths.

A surprising development is the decision posted today on Facebook by the CSM college president stating that “The college will remain in a Remote Operations or Restricted Operations mode through August 16, the last day of the summer session. This time may be extended if it is not yet safe for us to return to our campuses.”

That was an interesting decision given the Trump Administration’s current desire to begin opening the economy on May 1. The CSM leads me wonder if colleges/universities will be able to open as usual in the fall? I read an article that as the pandemic continues into the summer it may influence whether students will even go to college or change colleges to be closer to home. It seems that for some a significant amount of rethinking may enter their plans.

Wednesday morning, April 22, 2020

The Coronavirus.maryland.gov statistics for MD are as follows: confirmed virus cases 14,775 and deaths 631. Confirmed cases for the counties are as follows: Charles 427, Calvert 118, and St. Mary’s 112. Charles County continues as 8th highest in the state, Calvert 14th and St. Mary’s 15th. Deaths are as follows: Charles 29, Calvert 5, and St. Mary’s 3. In Southern Maryland, Charles County continues to surge ahead of the other two counties in the confirmed cases and death categories.

The Maryland Independent Wednesday edition is out today. Of the five front page articles, only two cover the coronavirus. One is “COVID-19 cases surge at nursing homes” and the other is “Maryland keeps schools closed through May 15.” The article about COVID-19 indicated the number of confirmed cases at the six senior care facilities is 120 and that the Health Department ensures those patients with the virus are receiving the necessary care, treatment, and testing. Charles County public schools, according to the article, are having teachers “...teach two 30 minutes live sessions twice a week.” Students can complete assignments online or with “paper learning packets.” Schools are also providing free meals at eleven school sites from 11:00 am to1:00 pm. The meals cover the traditional three meals a day.

I cannot say much about the demands of what is now at home education via the internet. My youngest son graduated from Westlake HS in the mid-1990s, so I can only imagine what families and their school-aged children are experiencing. No doubt students are experiencing anxieties about the massive change in their schooling, missing the extra-curricular events and losing the face to face interactions with their peers and, certainly, their teachers and the other school personnel in their lives. Seniors are missing those life passage events that help mark the end of their high school years and provide long lasting memories. Additionally, what may happen to those post-graduation plans? Can they begin those plans in this pandemic environment? Perhaps as the pandemic hinders plans maybe positive opportunities for new avenues will emerge.

Sunday afternoon, April 26, 2020

The COVID-19 Pandemic has added new vocabulary or usages to our language. PPE or personal protective equipment is something heard frequently in the
news. They are in high demand but short supply and are necessary to protect medical personnel and first responders coming into close contact with those suffering from the highly infectious coronavirus.

“Mitigation” describes the attempt to limit the spread of the virus. “Social distancing” refers to the six feet of space between people to help mitigate. “Shelter in place” is an approach encouraging people to stay at home and limit non-essential trips in order to mitigate the spread of the virus.

“Flatten the curve” is the desired result of mitigation. It refers to a decrease in the daily number of confirmed coronavirus cases leading to a flattening or plateauing of the confirmed cases and then a highly desired steady decline in the number of cases.

In Charles County and in the other Southern Maryland counties the confirmed cases and deaths are not as great as what is happening in counties to the north and in the state. So, though many Southern Marylanders have been sheltering in place and social distancing and wearing masks, the mitigation efforts have not yet led to a flattening of the curve.

Another term being spoken and written frequently is the “new normal.” The term is about the pandemic driven changes that have become part of our daily lives and is, it seems to me, what these changes hold for our future. Will the turn to online or distant education become more prominent in education? Will more meetings be conducted by Zoom or similar platforms? How many of those closed restaurants be able to reopen? Will businesses decide to recover by not returning to the workforce they once had? I have been hearing that the high unemployment, business closures and stock market decline have erased all the gains from the 2008 recession. This is the year 2020, so will full economic recovery take another twelve years?

Monday night, April 27, 2020

This morning I had to go to the bookkeeper's office for the Charles County Arts Alliance. As the non-profit’s treasurer, it was necessary to pick up a tax document. My trip there came to be another reminder of the new pandemic conduct. Upon arriving, I called the office to inform them I was there and then I had to wait for someone to come outside and give the document to me. After I received the document, I wanted to give the person a check. Rather than take the check, I was directed to put the check in a drop box attached to the brick wall just to the right of the double door entrance. Back in my car while arranging things before leaving the parking lot, the same employee came back out wearing gloves, carrying a spray bottle, and a paper towel which she wrapped around the check.

Today’s news is filled with stories of several states that are beginning to open the state and their economy by allowing citizens to end shelter in place and seek out an assortment of businesses, such as tattoo parlors, salons, restaurants, beaches and soon even theatres. On the other hand, Governor Hogan wants to see two weeks of declining confirmed coronavirus cases before moving into a gentle first phase to open the state and revive the economy. There is lively debate across the country as to whether the states effecting these openings, even faster than the Trump Phase One plan, are endangering their citizens with the possibility of increasing confirmed cases with diminished social distancing or whether it is more important to get the economy going and preserving the people’s independence. The near future will likely tell whose argument is right, though I hope the answer is revealed without too much cost in lives. I believe the MD approach is a wiser option; it may save more lives, not increase the confirmed coronavirus cases and not challenge the hospital systems even more.
Thanks CCAA Members for Your Support!

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Johnathon Clinkscale
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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
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 Baretticin
Cindi Barnhart
Susie Bender
Virginia Bridges
Rose Burroughs
Judy E. Cabos
Carol Y. Charnock
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We Love Our Members
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

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- □ Business – $250
- □ Nonprofit Organization – $75
- □ Other (Donations) ________

□ Renewal  □ New Member

Name (exactly as you want it to appear in print):

__________________________________________

Organization/Business (if applicable):

__________________________________________

Address:

__________________________________________

City:  State:  Zip:

Phone:

E–mail

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

Note: Dates and times may be subject to change.

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

Thursday, June 4, 7:00 pm
CCAA Board Meeting
United Way House, La Plata

Friday through Sunday, June 12 – 14 - CANCELED
ArtsFest Weekend
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
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Diane Rausch – Director
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Cindi Barnhart – Honorary Board Member
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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

May 2020

Whatever it is you are pursuing, whatever it is you are seeking, whatever it is you are creating, be careful not to quit too soon.

Elizabeth Garret

Charles County Arts Alliance
Performing • Visual • Literary

P.O. Box 697
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