June 2020

Charles County Arts Alliance
2020 Annual Membership Meeting

The Charles County Arts Alliance began the month of May hosting its first virtual Annual Membership Meeting. On May 9, 2020, from 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm, 36 attendees gathered for the annual event and including the entire CCAA Board of Directors, administrative staff, members, and the 2020 Arts Scholarship recipients and their families. The administrative staff and the Board of Directors were introduced in intervals throughout the meeting and provided information about their backgrounds and their expectations for the CCAA.

The Board also led a unanimous vote approving the recommended Bylaws amendments and provided committee reports from: Membership, Galleries, ArtFest, and Events. While the Board and CCAA members expressed both their positive and upsetting sentiments over the current state of the world (vocally and in the active virtual chat room) everyone kept their spirits high despite the many unknowns the future holds. Board member Ron Brown, chair of the Arts Scholarship, program provided a welcome transition by introducing the 2020 Arts Scholarship recipients and ended the meeting on a high note as each recipient introduced themselves and eagerly talked about their future plans. You can learn more about each student in this month’s newsletter.

The CCAA appreciates the continuous support provided by all its members and extends a thank you to those who were able to attend.️
Dear Friends of the CCAA,

Well? Where do we go from here?

Well here we are in June and facing the next “new normal,” whatever that is. Some places are open, and some are not. It is saddening that for the first time in some 27 years there will be no ArtsFest in Charles County. Maybe we can create a virtual ArtsFest in the Fall? One can never tell.

The CCAA is doing several things to work within the confines of these “crazy dazes.” The Newsflash appears every Thursday. We are continuing our Flashback Gallery Tours (you are encouraged to forward these to friends and neighbors) and forwarding additional virtual programming being offered by the MSAC, TAMA, M:Brace, and the Neighborhood Creative Arts Center.

Our next step in the virtual world will be the presentation of three Blue Sky Puppet Theater tales the first three Fridays in June, at noon, to be followed up on successive Fridays with the presentation of our six Scholarship recipients’ videos that will display their talents and their hopes for the future.

In August, the Board of Directors will continue our practice having an Annual Retreat to review the past year and look to the future. We will also be able, with more clarity, share with you what’s coming up with Arts in Education and Community Arts Development applications for FY 21, and if it is possible look forward with confidence. In the meantime, it is our hope that all our friends and members can get outside and enjoy the fresh air in a safe manner and come out on the other side of this crisis both hale and hardy.

Best wishes for a safe and wonderful Summer,

Sincerely,

Robert

Robert K. Rausch
President, Charles County Arts Alliance
CCAA Arts Scholarship Recipients

The CCAA extends a standing ovation to the recipients of the 2020 Arts Scholarship. These students are inspiring and provide a bright outlook for the future of the arts.

Chandler Bell is a graduate from North Point High School. While at North Point, she participated in the Drafting CTE and in the JROTC program where she held the position of Deputy Group Commander. Chandler’s activities also include Skills USA, NAACP: ACT-SO Stem program, and the ACE mentor program. She plans to attend Morgan State University in the fall of 2020 where she has been accepted into the Clara I. Adams, Honors College and will pursue a Bachelor of Science degree from the school of Architecture and Environmental Design. With significant interests in developing cost-efficient housing options for low-income and impoverished families, she aspires to become a certified residential architect. Chandler is an avid reader, enjoys painting, sketching, and playing soccer recreationally and competitively. Her mantra in life is “If you are not the hardest person working in the room, you are not working hard enough.” She is thankful for the support of the Charles County Arts Alliance and proud to be one of the recipients of the CCAA 2020 Arts Scholarship. She is excited to be recognized for her continued commitment to the arts and grateful to CCAA for seeing her potential.

Olivia Gordon is a graduate of La Plata High School. While in high school, she pursued her many passions and was heavily involved in the LPHS show troupe, choir, theatre, and marching band. She also participated in many community productions at the Port Tobacco Players and the College of Southern Maryland. Olivia has had years of dance training which led to her first job as a dance teacher at Artistic Motion Dance Center in La Plata. She has won various awards for her service in arts programs including departmental awards from the LPHS Performing Arts program and a superior rating for her Stage Management-Individual Event at the Maryland Thespian Festival. One of Olivia’s proudest accomplishments was traveling to Italy at age 15 to work as an actress for 2 weeks. Olivia will be attending Shenandoah Conservatory this fall to major in Theatre Design and Production with an emphasis on Stage Management, and minor in Dance. She is so thankful for all of the opportunities she has been given over the years and would like to thank her family, teachers, and mentors for pushing her to work hard and never give up.

Nyla Morrison is a graduate of St. Charles High School who also took classes at College of Southern Maryland – La Plata Campus. She achieved at 4.0 GPA while at St. Charles, taking various courses including Creative Writing, Psychology, Nutrition, and African Diaspora. Nyla’s teachers describe her as brilliant, friendly, fun, and determined. She considers creative writing to be her purpose, her love, and a part of her being. Nyla will attend Susquehanna University in the fall. She aspires to pursue a bachelor’s degree in creative writing and psychology there, and then to continue her studies as a psychology Ph.D. candidate in graduate school. you next year.
Kasey Taryn Murphy is a graduate of McDonough High School. While at McDonough, she maintained a 4.5 GPA, was inducted into the National Honor Society, became an International Honors Thespian, and was named Performing Arts Student of the Year, 2019. Her most memorable experiences at McDonough are acting in drama club, teaching routines as dance captain, and touring throughout Charles County with the Showstoppers Show Choir, where she served as a team lead and choreographer. Kasey loves the stage and has also performed with the College of Southern Maryland, the Tantallon Community Players, and Momentum Collective—a performing arts group dedicated to empowering youth in under-served communities. Kasey has trained at several premier institutions but first discovered her love for dancing at Mt. Ennon Baptist Church, serving in the dance ministry for the past 12 years. Kasey is thrilled to have been accepted into Temple University's Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) Musical Theatre Program, where she will begin her studies this fall. Kasey would like to thank her parents, teachers, Charles County Arts Alliance, and the Charles County Public School System for supporting the arts and encouraging her dream to become a professional choreographer and Broadway performer.

Jacob Waddell is a graduate of Thomas Stone High School. While there he performed in several musical productions, was a member of Thomas Tones, and a member of the marching band, serving as the Drum Major for two years. Outside of school, Jacob was a student leader for LifePoint Church's student youth group, Epic, and has performed as a musician for musicals at Port Tobacco Players. In the fall, Jacob will be attending Messiah University to pursue a Music Education degree with a focus in trumpet, and a minor in music worship. After college, he plans to teach in the public school system, teach private lessons, perform professionally, or any combination of these. Jacob is very excited to be moving into this next phase of life!

Lauren Ware is a graduating senior from La Plata High School. She will be attending the University of Maryland – Baltimore County in the fall, to study flute performance. She was raised in La Plata by her parents and grandmother. Her involvement in the arts began with dance lessons at age 3. She studied piano at age 8, and in fifth grade, began learning the flute. She chose flute as her primary focus and dedicated her time to developing her talent and technique on the instrument. She credits her school’s production of the musical “Cabaret” with helping her to realize how much she enjoyed playing as a member of the pit orchestra. She put aside her interest in becoming a cosmetic chemical engineer to pursue this new career prospect: as a member of theater orchestras on Broadway. Lauren is also interested in researching how music affects human emotions. When not involved in a musical endeavor, Lauren enjoys makeup and baking.

Congratulations and Good Luck!
Gather the entire family, tell a friend, and join the CCAA every Friday at noon, June 5 - 19, for a Virtual Puppet Show performed by Blue Sky Theatre! The shows will be shown via Zoom. Keep an eye out for the show links to be provided weekly via email and our Arts Newsflash.

Blue Sky Puppet Theatre is a regular performer at ArtsFest and the CCAA is excited to present their shows virtually for everyone to enjoy.

For more information, send an email to info@charlescountyarts.org. The performance schedule is listed below.

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<th>June 5, 2020</th>
<th>June 12, 2020</th>
<th>June 19, 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“THE THREE (NOT SO) LITTLE PIGS”</td>
<td>“RUFUS”</td>
<td>“PIG TALES”</td>
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<td>The wolf is a vegetarian and the pigs jam on rock and roll guitars. This show offers an offbeat version of the classic children’s tale that’s as much fun for the adults as it is for the kids. Great for all ages!</td>
<td>A fast-paced and funny story about acceptance and inclusion with an adorable main character. Perfect for the 2-10 year old crowd.</td>
<td>Pigs learn sharing and taking turns while acting out the stories of “The Three Billy Goats” Gruff” and “Jack and the Beanstalk.” For ages 2-10.</td>
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Three weeks after the well ran dry, I fed a man to the hogs.

The kitchen faucet drip had stopped. It had been a metronome companion, marking solitary kitchen chores, mending, morning coffee. I held the empty kettle, twisting both knobs. The tap spat, then nothing. I listened to a faint hiss where there should have been water.

The well was dry.

I’d been alone the whole time Sawyer was away. I’d kept up our place. The animals were healthy. I had sows with piglets to sell. There were no weeds in the garden. I’d done the repairs just like he would’ve if he hadn’t been on the state corrections road crew, saying “yes, sir,” and “no, sir,” to guards who thought he was lower than the dirt on their boots.

A big red X on the Sears calendar marked every day for four years. January this year, I flipped almost to the back of the new calendar and drew a big red circle around Sawyer’s coming home day. Back then, I counted months until the circle.

The well was dry. Sawyer’s voice told me to call a man out. I could mend fences, unsqueak hinges, put up a season’s worth of canning, but I could not find water on my own. I could not dig a new well.

I called a man out who could find water for cheap, dig a new well. He was passing through on his way west. He was guaranteed to bring back the watery pulse of sound in the kitchen until Sawyer would come home and fill the room with a voice in my ear saying, “I’ve missed you, my girl.” He’d never have to say “yes, sir,” or “no, sir,” again.

For three weeks I waited for the well man. I drove the Ford into town to buy water. I filled the bed with five-gallon jugs, drove home slowly on the rutted dirt roads. I conserved water. I stood in the tub and bathed with a teacup and water heated in the kettle. I told the vegetables to drink slowly, sending them thoughts of soaking deluges after the well man came. I told the hogs to drink slowly, letting them drink their fill. I stroked the dog’s fur, whispering that I would walk into town barefoot and carry water by hand if she wanted more.

When the well man arrived at sunrise, there were only two red Xs left to draw on the Sears calendar. The man had a horse in a dented trailer. I was on the porch with the dog. He led the horse into the dirt of the yard, called out that he spoke to God through the horse. God showed the horse water, and the well man would dig the following day. The dog whined.

The man yelled into the horse’s ear. He slapped her face with a forked branch, an old west divining rod. The horse’s eyes bulged, showing their whites. She didn’t move. “God,” the man bellowed into the horse’s other ear. “God directs you to water!” He slapped her face again, barking, “God shows you water!”

The horse was still until she was not. She stepped away from the man who was brandishing his rod, looking skyward. In a breath, the horse’s back leg struck out. The man fell, exhaling his God in a furious rush of air as he landed in the dirt. Neither moved. The man’s forehead was a deep, crushed crater. The dog and I backed into the house. I inhaled, exhaled, watching the man and the
horse through the screen door for an eternity. The man was still.

I couldn’t drop this in Sawyer’s lap. He couldn’t know there was any more trouble than driving into town when the well ran dry. I couldn’t let him come home to a dead drifter, a pack of lawmen sniffing around our property who’d look down on him when he’s a free man. Everyone in the county already knew he’d been away. I had secrets on this land, too.

The horse walked toward the house, stopping at the porch. She knickered, tossed her head, blinked at me. I was not afraid. I stepped onto the porch, extended my palm, crooned small noises to say I have a different God, now you do too. She sniffed my palm. I stroked her forehead, whispering, “I will be the one to find the water now.”

I led the horse into the barn, thankful for the empty stall Sawyer always said he’d use one day. I stroked her nose again, didn’t think of the extra water I’d need. The hogs grunted as I passed. I was grateful the well man had arrived before breakfast.

I’d kept Sawyer’s ax sharpened, kept the woodstove going for four winters by myself. I’d gotten good at cutting pieces to fit the stove. The hogs would be like the hungry woodstove that disappears my labors into smoke, heat, ash.

I took my dress off. There wasn’t enough water to wash this away until I went to town again. I could burn my underthings when I was done. The ax was light in my hand, fierce and focused. I did not stop. I had Sawyer’s coming home day to think about.

I was splattered, half-naked, sweating with the exertion reserved for filling woodstoves or bellies. The hogs will not be hungry for dinner. I will give them extra water tonight, and I will not tell them to drink slowly. Now, I would walk barefoot into town and carry water by hand if they wanted more.

I drove the well man’s truck into the barn. He was only passing through. I will know what to do with it before Sawyer comes home. The animals do not have the language to say the well man was here. The well man and I will keep this one a secret.

**About the Author...TJ Butler**

T.J. Butler lives on a sailboat with her husband and dog. She writes fiction and essays that are not all fun and games. Her work appears or is forthcoming in Levee, New Plains Review, Flash Fiction Online, Tahoma Literary Review, New South, Barren, Tiny House Magazine, and others. She has completed a collection of short stories, “A Flame on the Ocean.” She tweets at @aGalWithNoName.
Creative Resurgence: A Vision For the Future of the Arts in Maryland

The 2020 Maryland Arts Summit was collaboratively presented by Maryland Citizens for the Arts, Maryland State Arts Council, Arts Education in Maryland Schools, and the Maryland State Department of Education - Fine Arts Office. It was a virtual convening held Tuesday, May 26 – Friday, May 29, 2020, originally scheduled to take place in person. The move to a virtual platform reflected the changing landscape of the arts in the midst of a global pandemic, and as its event title offers, the Summit provided plenty of ideas and inspiration for a "creative resurgence".

The Summit kicked off with keynote speakers from arts sector leaders in and attendees were able to toggle amongst the speakers or just stick with one. With topics entitled Envision, Calm, Create, and Express, each speaker provided attendees with suggested pathways to moving the arts sector or their specific arts discipline forward, setting the perfect tone for the Summit.

The sessions offered something for everyone with presentations ranging from information on Audience Engagement Strategy, Finding Believers Using Instagram, Empowering Student Voices Through Transformative Art Education, and Funding Your Creative Efforts. The variety of workshops were resourceful and provided plenty of information that is adaptable to anyone’s programs and audiences.

The CCAA administrative staff attended various sessions throughout the Summit and closed the week feeling empowered about the future of the arts in Charles County and its potential for growth.
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
Roy & Kathy Jenkins
Gale Kladitis
Stephen & Linda Dent Mitchell

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Golden Renaissance Jewellers
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Henry McPherson
Leighann Owens
Norman & Peggy Palmer
John & Mary Lou Rutherford
John & Lucy Snell
Joshua and Mary Whitmore
Chancy & Sandra Wood

Individual
Beverly Adams
Frederick L. Allen
Debora Almassy
Dr. Theresa Alo
Monika Faust Barilla
David Boarman, II
Brent Bowell
Justin Bowie
Kim Bowie-Hendricks
Alison Brooks
Jackie Bryant
Johnathan Clinkscale
Judy Crawford
Danelle Danzy
Michelle Evans
Roxyana Gonzales
Cynthia Paige Gossage
Barbara L. Graves
William M. Graves
Olga Herrera
Rebecca L. Hutchinson
Angelica Jackson
Linda Jones
Lori Joseph
Fitsum Lakew
Holly Leymeister
Dianne E. Lyon
Kristi Machemer
Vicki L. Marckel
Julie A. Meisel
Sandi Middleton
Judith Miller
Nadira Nunez
Jennifer Pinto
Cynthia Snyder
Monique Walker

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 Pearl's of Southern Maryland Community Charities
Lile 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 Baretinicz
Cindi Barnhart
Sueie 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 Dashiell
Angela Freeman
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 Hammad
Billie Harley
Bernadette Harmon
Patricia P. Harrington
Carl F. Harris
Sally Hopp
Barbara Hufford
Charles F.M. Hughes
Arnold Hurley
Renée Jefferson-Copeland
Mary Ann Jenkins

Youth
Kayla Berry
Ja Leana Graves
Jaden Hendricks
Joshua Owen
Cali Quade

We Love Our Members
The mission of the Charles County Arts Alliance is to stimulate, promote, encourage and provide recognition of the arts and the creative spirit in Charles County, MD.

<table>
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<th>Membership Categories (check one):</th>
<th>□ Renewal</th>
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<td>□ Other (Donations) ____</td>
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The CCAA is an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization. All membership dues and donations are 100 percent tax–deductible.

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

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

Note: Dates and times may be subject to change.