November 2020

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"THE ESSENCE OF ALL BEAUTIFUL ART, ALL GREAT ART, IS GRATITUDE."

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

Artwork - Hanging On
Photography
by CCAA artist Kathleen Noel
CCAA - 2nd Fridays

The Charles County Arts Alliance goes live the 2nd Friday of each month in its new virtual lecture/performance series.

Each month a different arts discipline will be highlighted, featuring artists and programs from, with connections to Charles County and southern Maryland. Log on to our YouTube channel, Charles County Arts Alliance, every 2nd Friday at 7:00 pm for a variety of culture and conversation. Click HERE to subscribe to the channel today to learn more about 2nd Fridays and get YouTube notifications for all our virtual programs.

See what we have planned in the months ahead!

November
Music: Carly Harvey

December
Dance: Sheryl Pollard-Thomas, Director of the new dance program at McDonough High School in La Plata, and selected dance videos from Charles County performers. Learn more about our Call for Dance videos here.

January
Visual Arts: Charles County Inter-Generational Artist Panel Discussion

February
Storytelling and Literary Arts: Panel Discussion on the Arts and Social Justice in Charles County, Poetry performances by Charles County artists

March
Theatre

April
Open Mic (Mixed Disciplines)
CCAA - 2nd Fridays

First up for November is Music with "One of the best Blues/Soul singers in the Washington DC Area," Carly Harvey. This St. Mary's College alum joins the CCAA for a virtual performance and discussion, providing insight on the connections between Blues and Indigenous cultures music. Learn more about Carly at carlyharvey.com.

Tsali and Tuscarora descendant Carly Harvey is currently dubbed DC's Queen of the Blues. It is Carly's belief that Blues not only comes from the African American experience but is actually directly influenced by Indigenous American Minor Pentatonic Melodies and Stomp Dance Songs. Carly has taught master classes to educate people about the music that gives her so much pride in her Afro-Indigenous heritage. Learn more about Carly at carlyharvey.com.
On a chilly morning, Saturday, October 31, 2020 the Charles County Arts Alliance joined several community volunteers to assist the Neighborhood Creative Arts Center in painting a mural for the Dorchester Community Center in La Plata.

Lead artist Kayla Falenofoa Hare worked with NCAC students to create the mural template on four mobile panels. To see the final product and additional pictures of the painting day, click here and visit NCAC’s Facebook page. 🎨
Every Saturday morning my younger sister and I followed the same routine. We would awake in the bedroom we shared together and before taking our first steps, we would be sure to put our socks on. Our mother would not hear of us walking barefoot on the cold, brown tiled floor of our two-bedroom apartment. We considered it from time to time, just to experience that initial shock to our systems when our tender little heels and dark chocolate toes made that first contact with the icy floor underneath; but we always managed to dismiss the thought. Prior experience taught us our mother had spies strategically positioned throughout our entire apartment complex, and perhaps even in our very own apartment, who would report even the slightest of our disobedient violations directly to her.

The first order of the day was watching the Kung Fu series from our mother’s bedroom. Kung Fu wasn’t just for little boys. We were big fans. While Mom was working hard at her second job, her two favorite girls sat glued to the television set with pink sponge rollers evenly spaced atop our heads. We watched intently as David Carradine, ever so heroically, avenged the righteous with his swift moves, skyscraping kicks, and leaps that were so high it seemed like it should have taken him hours to land. Once the episodes came to an end, Kim and I would shift into motion! We would practice those expert moves on each other. Unlike the Kung Fu adventures, no righteous were avenged nor were any heroic characters invoked; but we whipped the “Fu” out of each other, jumping off of beds, and leaping off of dressers with our fists and legs poised just like we’d seen Carradine do it. Fortunately, we didn’t do any real damage to one another, but there were certainly casualties. Scattered all over our mother’s floor, our valiant little pink rollers had been beaten to a fine pulp and were lying lifeless and broken, having fought the good fight of faith and our hair that had just recently been straightened with that good ole gold straightening comb that our Momma laid right in the middle of that blue fire on the stove and that green Ultra Sheen hair grease she slathered on each parted section had begun to revert.

I really miss my sister.

The phone rang right before our clock’s alarm sounded. It was unusual for anyone to call us so early on a Sunday morning because everyone knew we would be preparing for our worship service. Right away, my nerves went haywire and I knew there was an emergency. My husband jumped out of bed and ran downstairs, almost in a panic, to answer the phone. By the time he reached it, the call had ended and began ringing again. Byron pushed the phone in my direction and I grabbed it, immediately pressing it to my ear. My heart was beating outside of my chest. I knew something was wrong but I didn’t know what that something was until I heard my mother’s voice on the other end: “Kim just got killed” she managed. “Kim who?” I demanded, knowing full well she was speaking of my sister, but she couldn’t have been talking about MY Kim. Not my Kung Fu sparring partner. Not the girl I’d just laughed and talked with the night before. “KIM WHO?!” I demanded again. My entire world had been upended and turned inside out in just a few seconds.

It has been years since I lost my sister in a car accident and admittedly, there are times when I choose not to think of her. Remembering her often causes me indescribable pain – pain that begins as
a knot in my throat and then travels to my stomach, twisting, pulling and tearing at my intestines, and ultimately arriving at my heart where it begins chipping away at it, just like a treasure hunter who is digging for gold. I never lost my faith in God, but honestly, it did wane a bit as I tried to navigate through the dreaded “why’s.”

Kim and I were only 16 months apart and for so many years after our parents’ separation, my mother, my sister, and I were the only family we knew. We were really all we had. The “Three Musketeers!” “Los Tres Amigos!” We shared so many laughs together, and had even shed a few tears together. We spent family dinners with each other, told lame jokes, and took our famous, yearly road trips together – often traveling with a guest family member or two. We did everything in threes! There were so many other families who had siblings to spare, but I’d lost the only sister I’d known.

After losing my sister, times were very difficult, but I have always been conscious of God’s presence. He is indeed my refuge and my strength, and a very present help in the time of trouble. When I feel as if I can’t stand the pain of being without Kim another moment, I remember what God spoke to me several years ago …

There are those times when you hear the voice of God as if He were standing next to you and whispering in your ear while the soothing breath of His voice sweeps across your cheek. I had one of those times.

Years ago my sister’s boyfriend was killed by bullets that littered the vehicle he was driving. My sister was supposed to be with him that evening, but they had an argument and she went home with a friend. On her way home, she heard the violent commotion, having no idea her boyfriend was dying at the bottom of the hill. I was so distraught by his death that I decided I needed to have a “not so nice” discussion with God: “God, You did not have to let him die without receiving salvation,” I declared. “You are God. You could have saved him!” He responded in turn, very clearly and very succinctly: “I didn’t have to spare your sister.” I had nothing else to say.

Today, when I think of the times Kim and I spent together, a bittersweet smile inches its way across my face. I can still hear God’s voice as He firmly reminded me of His divine providence in the earth and in my life. Now, I can remember our Saturday morning Kung Fu bouts with a tender nostalgia, thanking God for the times we did share, knowing Kim is with Him and that I will surely see her again.

I wonder if they show Kung Fu reruns in Heaven … I better practice my moves just in case.

About the author…

Tracy Morgan is a graphic designer and photographer whose hidden passion is to become a superhero with extraordinary writing powers. Tracy specializes in logo designing, lifestyle portraiture, and event photography. She has a knack for capturing the visions of entrepreneurs and bringing those visions to life. Her eye for poses and portraiture and the ability to find those seemingly private moments in a crowd full of people is what makes her the photographer she is. However, what Tracy values most in life is her relationship with God, loving her husband of more than 34 years, cherishing her two adult sons, and spoiling her beautiful fraternal twin grandchildren absolutely rotten. 

6 | Arts Insider
The Maryland State Arts Council and its collaborating partners regularly offer a variety of resources, programs, and funding opportunities. Below are just a few highlights. Information is updated weekly in the CCAA’s Arts Newsflash. You can also view the Maryland State Art Council’s November Newsletter and visit www.msac.org.

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Emergency Grant Funding Deadline Quickly Approaching

Applying Due

Friday, November 13, 5:00 pm

Apply today if you or your arts organization is in need of emergency grant funding. Eligibility includes arts organizations that have previously received MSAC funding in any program or is approved to apply for the FY22 Grants for Organizations cycle and independent artists. For more information and detailed eligibility requirements click here.
Arts Lab 2020
November 20, 2020
10:00 am - 2:30 pm
$10
Click HERE to Register

ArtsLAB is a traveling professional development symposium, presented by the Maryland Citizens for the Arts each year, in different parts of the state. ArtsLAB is a place where artists, arts professionals, advocates and more, come together to discuss current issues and concerns facing the arts sector. This year will be the first ever VIRTUAL ArtsLAB. For more information, visit the MCA website.

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SERVE AS A FOLKLIFE NETWORK GRANT PANELIST!

Panelist work is at the heart of the Maryland State Arts Council's service. This work enlists members of Maryland’s arts sector to make the funding recommendations that MSAC uses in its grantmaking.

Panelist service is a way to ensure that the needs of your community are represented on the state level. Selected Folklife Network panelists serve for a six-week term, which includes preparation for and participation in one panel of approximately two hours.

Visit marylandarts.smartsimple.com to apply.

If you are interested in serving as a panelist but have questions about the application process, please contact State Folklorist Chad Buterbaugh at chad.buterbaugh@maryland.gov or visit msac.org/programs/maryland-traditions
Thanks CCAA Members for Your Support!

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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 Community Charities
Lew & Karen McIntyre, Authors
Life Journeys Writers' Guild
Maryland Writers’ Association - Charles County Chapter
Mattawoman Creek Art Center
Music Teachers Association of Charles County, Inc.
Nanjemoy Community Center
Neighborhood Creative Arts Center
Port Tobacco Players
Southern Maryland Carousel Group
Southern Maryland Decorative Painters
Town of Indian Head
Senior
Ruth Bailey
Norma Baretinic
Cindi Barnhart
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We ♥ Our Members

November 2020
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.
November 2020

“You use a glass mirror to see your face; you use works of art to see your soul.”

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

Arts Insider

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