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**Charles County Dances!**

Young dancers in Charles County are everywhere! Their amazing talent is exhibited locally at dance programs and recitals, and across the country: performing, competing, and excelling amongst the country’s best dancers.

The Charles County Arts Alliance is making strides to increase the exposure of young dancers’ talent locally by presenting its first ever, annual Dance Competition! Dance studios located in Charles County, will be invited to submit dances in the categories of Ballet, Tap, and Contemporary, performed by students ages 11 to 17 years, to compete in this one-night only event. Cash prizes and more are awarded for each category by a panel of three judges who are experts in the field of dance.

The performances take place on Saturday, February 15, 2020, beginning at 6:00 pm, at the Village Green Park and Pavilion in Indian Head. It is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required. Make plans to attend and click [here](#) to register for your ticket today.

You will not want to miss this annual event showcasing Charles County’s finest! For more information, call Monique Walker at the CCAA office at (301) 392-5900.
Dear Members and Supporters of the CCAA,

WOW!!!

I thought the first half of the year was busy with: the Board Retreat and Board meetings, the coverage of the visual art display at the P.D. Brown Building (Charles County Fair), the CAD Grant Panel review of 18 applications, the acceptance of 22 AIE applications, “Meet the Artists” receptions, numerous gallery hangings and the Membership and Grantee Gala in November. However, it seems that the second half of the year is going to be just as jam-packed with events and activities as the first!

So what lies ahead? For starters: the La Plata and CCAA recommendation for the development of an Arts District presented to the County Commissioners; the CCAA, Calvert and St. Mary’s Art Councils working together for the development of a Folk Life and Maryland Traditions hub at St. Mary’s College, in conjunction with the Maryland State Arts Council; and the Board Retreat and appreciation dinner round out January.

Also in the works: The premier of “Charles County Dances,” the first ever dance competition sponsored by the CCAA, will be held at the Indian Head Pavilion; the Scholarship Committee panel meets to review all the student applications; and the first ever Poetry Out Loud Competition (co-sponsored with the Charles County Board of Education), and the “Writers Unite Seminar,” supported by the Maryland Writers Association and the Life Journeys Writers Guild, take the stage in February and March.

April, May and June are enhanced by more Board meetings, gallery hangings, a CCAA Bylaws review, Annual Membership Meeting and the presentation of a three-day ArtsFest. This year we will be offering a Friday night concert, a Saturday filled with music and art/cultural displays at the La Plata Town Hall, and a day of art presentations and demonstrations at Mattawoman Creek Art Center.

Everyone rest up over the holidays because the New Year is going to be EXPLOSIVE!!!!

Sincerely,

Robert

Robert K. Rausch
President, Charles County Arts Alliance
Meet Fraser Tuffee

 Joined the CCAA Board of Directors For FY 2020-2021

Our newest Board Member is Fraser Tuffee, who is "honored to join the Charles County Arts Alliance Board of Directors." Now semi-retired, Fraser lives in La Plata with his wife, Helen, and their two dogs, Monty and Bentley.

Originally from the UK, Fraser has lived in the US since 2005. He has had a variety of careers including engineering and healthcare as an imaging technician and manager. He has also worked as a healthcare IT educator and Global Marketing Manager, and he spent several years traveling and working in Europe and Asia.

Fraser believes in the ethos of community service and, being semi-retired, has more time to be involved in local civic activities. He recently became a member of the Charles County La Plata Rotary Club, which will give him the opportunity to be part of a community that drives lasting change.

Fraser's passions are reading books, riding and working on his motorcycles, which his wife tolerates! Recently, he was lucky enough to travel to India and spend three weeks touring on a motorcycle through the Himalayas.

Welcome, Fraser, to the CCAA Board of Directors! 🤹‍♂️
Robert K. Rausch, CCAA President . . .

Robert retired from teaching, after being a Music Educator for 35 years in North Carolina, Prince George’s County and Charles County. He received a Bachelor’s in Music Education Degree from East Carolina University and did Postgraduate work at East Carolina University, Peabody Conservatory of Music, University of Maryland and George Mason University.

During his years as Music Educator, he taught Instrumental, Choral, Orchestra and General Music, and was a Nationally Registered Music Educator (Music Educators National Conference). Robert was also named as a Maryland Outstanding Arts Educator (Maryland Alliance for Arts Education), and nominated five times to Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers. Additionally, he was a member of Character Education Curriculum Team, CCPS; co-authored the Middle School Instrumental Music Curriculum, Charles County Public Schools; and co-founder of Future Educators of America Chapter at Milton Somers.

Robert’s Community activities included Co-founder of the Friends of Old Waldorf School First Foundation; Co-founder, Past Conductor of the Southern Maryland Concert Band; and Founder, Past and current President of the Charles County Arts Alliance (CCAA). During his 34 years with the CCAA, he has served on the Board of Directors for 29 of those years as: Past President 11, Treasurer 1, Vice President 2, and President for 15.

In addition, endeavors during his time with the CCAA include: Board Member of the Maryland Middle School Association (MMAS); Chairman, MBDA District Solo and Ensemble Festivals; Founder and Director of the Maryland Moravian Band Camp; and Conductor of the Youth Concert Band, 20th Moravian Music Festival. For the past eleven years, Robert has participated in over 75 theatrical productions as an actor/singer, producer, director, stage manager, musical director and/or conductor, set construction, painter and stage hand.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
New Gallery Opens at the Community Bank of the Chesapeake, Waldorf Branch

48 Works of Art on Display through April 17, 2020

On December 27, a new gallery opened at the Community Bank of the Chesapeake, located at 3035 Leonardtown Road, Waldorf. This is the 14th show to open in partnership with the Arts Alliance and the Bank.

The theme was open to the artists and showcases works by Theresa Alo, Cynthia Ruth Bailey, Dona Baker, Norma Baretincic, Brent Bovell, Alison Grey Brooks, Rainy Daye, Cecelia Dunay, Penelope Gold, Sally Goldsmith, Cynthia Gossage, Jaden Hendricks, Arnold Hurley, Renée Jefferson-Copeland, Gordon Johnson, Addison Likins, Susannah Lynch, Julie Meisel, Chuck Morse, Margaret Neal, Elisabeth Novack, Toni Poe, Stephanie Ritchie, and Buddy Scott.

Below is just a sample of the wonderful art. Stop by and enjoy all the works in this new exhibition in Charles County! Gallery hours are Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. You can also click HERE to view the gallery online. 🌿
Scholarship Applications for 2020 Are Now Available Online!

**Deadline to Apply is March 6, 2020**

Every year, the Charles County Arts Alliance (CCAA) awards a $1,000 scholarship to one outstanding graduating senior from each public high school in Charles County who plans to continue studying the Arts (performing, visual or literary) at a four-year college or university toward a career in the Arts.

Applications are available now, the deadline to apply is March 6, 2020. Visit [https://charlescountyarts.org/program/scholarships](https://charlescountyarts.org/program/scholarships) to download an application. Students can also obtain copies from their career counselors.

For more information, contact the CCAA office at 301-392-5900, or info@charlescountyarts.org.

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**PLEASE TAKE THE A&E SURVEY!**

An Arts & Entertainment District is being considered for downtown La Plata. The Town of La Plata is working with the CCAA, Shop 53 Tattoo and Art Studio, and the local arts scene to get their thoughts, but would like to hear yours, too.

If you are:

- A Local Resident,
- A Local Business Owner/Operator,
- Considering Establishing a Local Business, or
- An Artist of Any Sort (Folk & Traditional Arts, Literary Arts, Media Arts, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, etc.),

Click [HERE](http://example.com) by January 6, 2020, to take a brief survey, and let us know your comments!

For more information, contact Kelly Phipps at kphipps@townoflaplata.org.
CCAA Members' Photography Selected For the 
2020 Community Bank of the Chesapeake Calendar!

CCAA winners of the competition held during the summer of 2019 are:

**Suzanne Cassidy** for the calendar cover and January photo ~

![Image of a bird and flowers]

**Julie Meisel**'s photo for March ~

![Image of a barn and fields]

**Addison Likins**' photo for September ~

![Image of a autumnal scene]

Congratulations to our photographers, 
and thank you, Community Bank of the Chesapeake! ❞
LITERARY News

Here's a Christmas Present from Martha Lane ~
Her Delightful Story, The Letter E Leaves the Alphabet . . .

On a cold December Day,
In his home, far away,
The letter E said that he
Was leaving the alphabet family.

E told his mom, he told his dad,
He told them all what made him mad.
E said it loud, he said it clear,
He shouted it for all to hear.

“I’m leaving if I cannot be
First in the alphabet family!”
He put on his coat, gloves and hat,
And walked out saying,
“That is that!”

Leaving a note for the dog to reveal,
He drove away on his snowmobile.
E’s brother and sisters, everyone,
Ran to tell what E had done.

“Mother, Father, come and see,
We can’t find the letter E.
We’ve looked high, we’ve looked low,
Where he is we do not know.”

“Look in the house, look in the yard,
Call 911, call the National Guard!”
All the Letters went back to their beds,
And pulled the covers over their heads.

Grandmom prayed and Granddad, too,
And then they knew just what to do.
“Find the dog, get E’s note,
Read every word he wrote.”

The Note E Wrote . . .

“I do not want to be fifth in this family.
Did everyone of you forget?
I’m the most used letter in the alphabet!

“I AB-SO-LU-TE-LY
Work harder than all the ABCs.
Computers here, encyclopedias there,
Email, email everywhere.

“Nobody cares what I think.
Alphabetical order stinks!
I’m on a f-a-s-t delivery
In a truck marked with an E.

“To ask the Letter Maker to change,
The way the alphabet is arranged.
I’m out of here, not more for me.”

Signed,
THE ANGRY LETTER E

All TV and radio stations,
Sent this message to the nations,
“EMERGENCY! EMERGENCY!
We can’t find the Letter E!”

“If E decides to stay away
One whole and one whole day,
Every E in every word
Will never again be seen or heard!”
“Computers will crash, email will stop.
And from each word all Es will drop.
“EMERGENCY! EMERGENCY!
We can’t find the Letter E.”

The President closed the schools.
Workers put down their tools.
Every Library locked each door!
Printing presses printed no more.

TO THE CASTLE E DID FLEE...
And got down on bended knee.
“Letter Maker good and true,
I have come to plead with you.”

“Change the way the letters stand,
I am the Super Letter Man!
I want the alphabet to be
E-B-C-D-A not A-B-C-D-E.”

“A is always number one,
Everywhere we walk or run.
All students want an A...
On their papers every day.”

“I want to be a 1st place winner.
I want to be first in line for dinner.
The Letter Maker looked at E
And spoke as kindly as could be.”

“Your mother told you long ago,
The Letter Maker made you so.
Twenty-six letters, one by one,
Vowels and Consonants ’til it was done.”

“Vowels are the pals of the alphabet.
Consonants sometimes regret,
That the vowels A,E,I,O,U,
Are the alphabetical super glue.”

“A word is not a word, you know,
Without a vowel to make it so!
And you must be silent in a word
To help another vowel be heard.”

“Especially in lake and take,
Shake, bake, make and cake.”
The Letter E hung his head.
Then looked up and sadly said.

“It is not fair, it is absurd,
To be silent in any word”
If I can never be
First in this family,

“The alphabet will become
twenty-six letters MINUS ONE.
I WILL TAKE A LONG VACATION,
And live on Earth’s space station.”

The Letter Maker said to E,
“If you leave your family”
Every E in every word,
Will fly away like a bird.”

“No one else can take your place.
You will leave an empty space.
You must decide, do it soon,
Or every single book is doomed.”

“Your family has come to let you know,
What would happen if you go?
Hear the things they never will do.
Hear what would happen without you!”

“A will never answer the phone.
B can’t give the dog a bone.
C will lose all her cheer.
D shall never see a deer.”
“F cannot fight a fire,  
Or help fix a flat tire.  
G could never graduate.  
H can't help bears hibernate."

“I will never skate on ice,  
Eat ice cream or roll the dice.  
J shall never drive a jeep.  
K will no secrets keep.”

“L can never love another.  
M shall not become a mother.  
N will stop being neat.  
O no homework can complete.”

“P shall never pilot a plane.  
Q will never be Queen again.  
R can rake no fall leaves.  
S will not be able to sneeze.”

“T will never climb a tree,  
Play a tune, or count to three.  
U cannot untie shoe laces,  
V will hold not flowers in vases.”

“W can never paint things white,  
Ride a wave, or learn to write.  
X knows exit signs will go.  
And the word excellent also.”

“Y will never sing "Yankee Doodle,"  
Yell a yell or eat a noodle.”  
Z can never zip a zipper  
Or get a haircut with a clipper.”

In a chorus the Letters shouted!  
“LETTER E ONLY YOU CAN DO  
WHAT WAS CREATED JUST FOR YOU!”

“No matter where you stand,  
You are the Super Letter Man.  
We can't rearrange, it must always be,  
But you could change your heart and see;”

“That without YOU Letter E,  
We are not a family.  
Choose right now what you will do  
All of us are waiting for you.”

“The Letter E’s reply,  
Was shouted out to all the sky:  
My eyes are open. I now can see,  
Thank you family for loving me.”

“All the Letters from A to Z,  
Are exactly where they need to be.  
Nothing would ever be the same,  
If in space I remain.”

“I see no one can take my place.  
I truly want to keep my space.  
You have made me happy today.  
I am coming home to stay.”

“Letter Maker and family too,  
Please forgive me for leaving you.  
And so the alphabet family...  
Lived happily ever after, with the  
Letter E.”

THE END 🌟

Author, Martha Lane  
Illustrator, Deborah White,
On Thursday, February 13, 2020, we will head to Annapolis and make our voices heard. Join us and become a fierce advocate in one of the most important advocacy days for the Maryland arts sector. Register NOW and join the hundreds of advocates who fight tirelessly for the arts.

This invigorating one-day event brings together countless members of the arts community, and you can stand tall with arts advocates, artists, educators, administrators, board members, volunteers, and more from across the state - all with the common goal of championing public investment for the arts.

During the event, you will also hear remarks from lawmakers passionate about the arts and the presentation of the annual Sue Hess Arts Advocate of the Year Award. Most importantly, attendees will have the opportunity to champion the arts directly with their state representatives.

Don't miss this important opportunity to support the arts! Click HERE and get the early bird registration rate of $25.00!
Great news! This afternoon, the United States Congress reached an agreement to pass all FY 2020 (October 2019-September 2020) funding bills and avoid another government shutdown. Specifically, the bills included all of our top arts funding and policy asks to support the arts and arts education across the country.

1. Funding increases for all federal cultural agencies, including the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities at $162.5 million each, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and many more.

2. First-time military funding allocations and policy recommendations for arts therapy to care for veterans, active military and their families.

3. Arts education funding maintained for documenting replicable model arts education programs across the country.

4. Justice Department policy recommendations now include arts-based juvenile justice programs among the strategies to be pursued by its Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention.

5. An unfair nonprofit tax provision was retroactively fixed that had taxed fringe benefits, like transit and parking expenses, of its employees.

A detailed Legislative Update can be found on their website at https://www.artsactionfund.org/ceo-president-robert-l-lynch-statement-response-final-2020-funding-priorities, along with a complete press statement from Americans for the Arts Action Fund President and CEO Robert L. Lynch.
Thanks CCAA Members for Your Support!

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Diane Rausch
Robert K. Rausch

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Community Bank of the Chesapeake

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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 Pearl’s 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 Baretinic
Cindi Barnhart
Susie Bender
Virginia Bridges
Rose Burroughs
Judy E. Cabos
Martha Knight Clements
Carol Corbett
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Kayla Berry
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Jaden Hendricks
Joshua Owen
Calì Quade
CCAA Membership Form

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):

[ ] 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 [ ] Grant Committee
[ ] Budget/Finance/Audit Committee [ ] Membership Committee
[ ] Scholarship Committee [ ] Outreach/Marketing Committee
[ ] Events Committee [ ] Administrative/Office Work
[ ] Gallery Committee [ ] Technical/IT Support

Charles County Arts Alliance
P.O. Box 697, White Plains, MD 20695
www.charlescountyarts.org / 301-392-5900
info@charlescountyarts.org

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: Promoting ALL the arts in Charles County, MD
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

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

Saturday, February 8, 10:00 am – Noon
CCAA Board Meeting
United Way House, La Plata

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

Saturday, February 15, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Charles County Dances!
Village Green Park and Pavilion
Indian Head

Saturday, March 14, 10:00 am – Noon
CCAA Board Meeting
United Way House, La Plata

Sunday, March 29, 1:00 pm
"Poetry Out Loud" Competition
Old Waldorf School
Waldorf, MD

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

Saturday, May 2, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
CCAA Annual Membership Reception and Meeting
Waldorf West Library – Main Gallery

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

Friday through Sunday, June 12 – 14
ArtsFest Weekend
La Plata Town Hall and Mattawoman Creek Art Center

Note: Dates and times may be subject to change.
January 2020

Happy New Year!

I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are: making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world.
Neil Gaiman

Arts Insider

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Fraser Tuffee – Director
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Judy Crawford – Administrative Director
Monique Walker – Administrative Specialist

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

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