



The Arts Insider

August 2020

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Looking Back to Move Forward



In the Adinkra symbol system used by the Akan people of Ghana West Africa, there is a symbol called Sankofa. The symbol translates as “to look into one's past in order to move forward.” It expresses the importance of reaching back to knowledge gained in the past and bringing it into the present in order to make positive progress. In this edition of Arts Insider, the Charles County Arts Alliance looks back on its work over the past four months to reflect and evaluate as we work towards creating new paths. Be sure to complete the Arts Interest Survey and take advantage of the Individual and Youth membership discounts.

The 2021 fiscal year marks the CCAA's 33rd year of existence. The year has begun with our office continuing to operate virtually. The administrative staff has used this time to not only keep operations running, but engage in several professional development opportunities to increase their knowledge in this ever-changing virtual world.

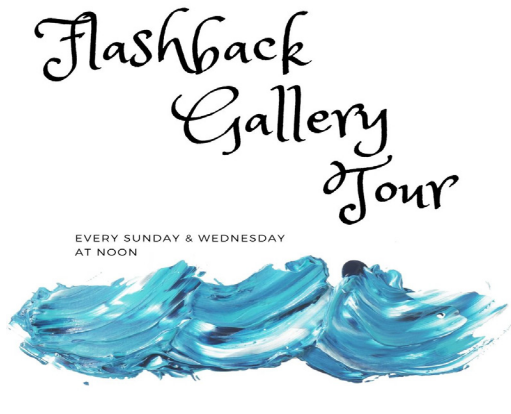
While many in-person arts events are still on hold, the CCAA is glad to announce a successful call for artists at the Community Bank of the Chesapeake, Waldorf branch. The show is set to open August 14 and the artists will be featured in the September Arts Insider. With the opening of the show, it is gratifying to know in uncertain times, moving forward will include some pieces of the normalcy we previously knew. 🐾

Looking Back

APRIL

Initiated the first of several social media campaigns to engage the Charles County community and see how people were staying creative at home

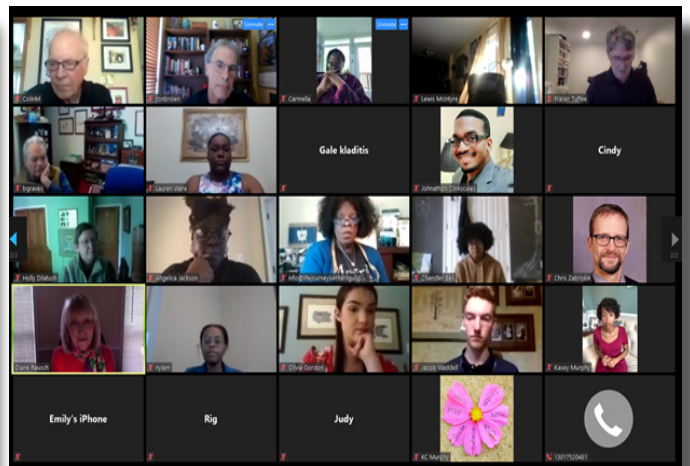
Began Flashback Gallery Tours on YouTube providing a virtual platform for CCAA sponsored and supported arts galleries



MAY

Hosted first virtual Annual Membership Meeting

Thanked essential workers at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home and the Charles County Detention Center with meals and snacks



CCAA News

JUNE

Presented virtual programs featuring Blue Skye Puppet Theatre



JULY

Continued virtual programs with a series called Excellence in the Arts individually highlighting the 2020 CCAA Arts Scholarship winners

Continued social media campaigns to increase virtual audience engagement, including Get to Know Black Art with weekly profiles on black visual artists



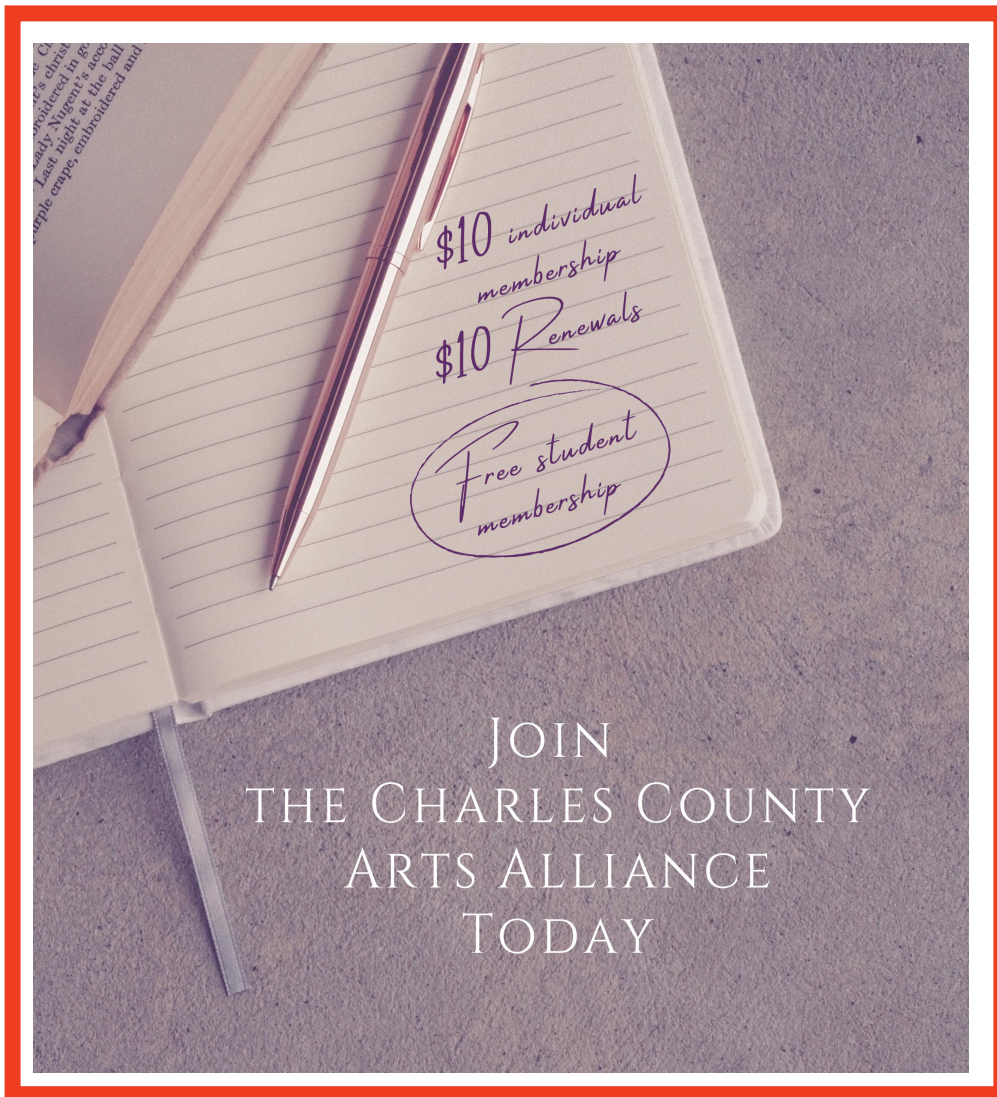
The CCAA thanks its members, supporters, and the entire Charles County community over the past months and look forward to a stronger creative community no matter what lies ahead. ∞

Moving Forward

Membership Discount

From August 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021, the CCAA is providing a membership discount for its Individual and Youth categories.

Renew today!



JOIN
THE CHARLES COUNTY
ARTS ALLIANCE
TODAY

Arts Interest Survey

The mission of the Charles County Arts Alliance (CCAA) is to stimulate, promote, encourage, provide financial support and recognition of the arts and the creative spirit in Charles County. The creative spirit in Charles County includes everyone from artists, audience members, students, teachers, and supporters of all the arts – performing, visual, and literary. As our current world continues to redefine itself, the CCAA wants to know what the interests and needs are of the people of Charles County regarding the arts, so we can learn how we can best serve you.



We want to hear from you!

Complete the CCAA Arts Interest Survey today!



Please complete and share our brief survey.
Click [HERE](#) to complete today. ♡

Dog Tags By Michelle Y. Green



Tonight I found my father's dog tags.

Months ago, I had purloined the dusty keepsake box from my mother's house. The tags lay tangled beneath a stash of yellowed newspaper clippings, forgotten tie tacks, a large caliber bullet, and an expired American Express card. What surprised me was that I did not cry.

Stitch-by-stitch I am piecing together the quilt that was my father's life. Hewn from the coal mining mountains of southeastern Kentucky, he boarded a bus to Tuskegee with three dollars in his pocket. He left there as one of only two colored flyers to be triple-rated—a pilot, navigator, and bombardier. More times than once he said—we had a job to do, so we did it. They called themselves, "The 100 percenters." Hollywood, Ken Burns, the obituary pages, even this year's Superbowl have brought to light the legacies of these extraordinary men. But my

memories are in the quiet things.

Dad shaved with a straight-edged razor given to him by Daddy John who, covered with coal dust, cut hair on the side. I loved to watch Dad lather his face and carefully cut around the cleft of his chin. And then the best part—the splash of Old Spice.

He spit-shined his shoes every morning. He complained that the seams on the toes of his ribbed socks hurt his feet. But he whistled as he placed each shoe on the wooden shoebox, dabbed the waxy paste from the Kiwi tin, and brushed vigorously until he could see his face on his shoe tops. And then, the crescendo—I got to watch as he affixed his many-colored ribbons and clusters, donned his hat, and left for the day.

I did not cry last night when I found his dog tags, but I have cried many times before that and will again. I am writing his story: "The Devil's Bargain." World War II, Korea, and Vietnam took a toll on him, and on us.

In his last days, Dad put me behind the wheel of his Porsche and asked me to take him home to Kentucky one last time. His vanity tag read "SOG 68," which identified him as a member of the covert Special Operations Group in Vietnam. Each four-man team was so secret, that it was denied by the U.S. government.

I was well equipped. At 16, in his green convertible Jaguar XKE, Dad had taught me to "slide into fifth" on the flight line of Lackland A.F.B. For mere mortals, the trip to Jenkins, Kentucky, was an eight-hour drive from Maryland—especially through the winding mountain roads behind over-loaded coal trucks. But when we got to 81 South, he told me to

LITERARY News

"sting the gun!" In six hours flat, we could smell coal dust and whispering pines.

We knew there would be nothing left of Holler Number Five, because the state had cleaved his mountain home to make a new highway. What we did not know was that we would witness the ribbon cutting. I looked high into the mountaintop to see a single tire painted in white. It was Daddy John's custom to paint white tires to decorate the mountainside behind his home.

Dad unburdened himself to me on the trip home. He took the wheel. When the time came, he knew I would write the truth—about the body snatches, the kill counts, the stalking Special Ops Groups, the comrades whose names would never appear on the marble wall back home. It has taken me years of mining memories, combing through personal affects, running the gauntlet of government red tape, and tear-soaked pillows to feel ready. My deepest regret is that, although I hear his voice clearly, he will not be here to read it.



About the Author...

Michelle Y. Green is an award-winning author of historical fiction and biography for children and young adults.

Her most recent work is "A Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie 'Peanut' Johnson." Mamie was the only woman to pitch professional baseball. A teammate of Hank Aaron, Mamie pitched three winning seasons in the Negro Leagues.

Michelle's author talk at the Library of Congress about Mamie is on YouTube.



Michelle is pursuing an Advanced Degree in The Teaching of Writing at The Johns Hopkins University. Her work in progress is a YA novel, "The Devil's Bargain," a Vietnam-era story told in three voices.

Visit www.michelleygreen.com for her blog and podcast. 🎧



Stay up to date with the latest programs, opportunities and resources from the MSAC and its partnering organizations. Check out the list below.

For more information, visit www.msac.org.

[MSAC Programs](#): Funding, Resources, and Professional Development

[MSAC ENVISION Series](#): Focusing on Possibilities

[MSDE Statewide Arts Resources](#): Arts Together; Social Emotional Learning Through the Arts

[Maryland Citizens for the Arts](#): Maryland Arts Institute for Racial Justice

As institutions move toward Racial Equity, it is necessary to examine and reconcile the past, understand the present, and create change for the future. This program will include educational and developmental work by way of workshops and reflection sessions, and a complementary book club. Registration coming soon. 🌀

Thanks CCAA Members for Your Support!

Platinum Circle

Charlotte & Abbott Martin
Diane Rausch
Robert K. Rausch

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Community Bank of the
Chesapeake

Gold Circle

Ron & Marti Brown
Andy & Jessica Dixon
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David & Nikole Smith
Chris & Kate Zabriskie

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Roy & Kathy Jenkins
Gale Kladitis
Stephen & Linda Dent Mitchell

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Joson Fine Jewelry & Home
Boutique

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Agency, Inc.
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Lorina Harris
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Colin Mably
Joseph Wimberly

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Amy Blessinger
Burkey & Margaret Boggs
James Brewster
Suzanne & William Cassidy
Richard & Margery Coppola
William F. Eckman

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Donald D. Faust
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Glenn & Ursula Lawrence
Dana Sue Lateulere
Susannah & David Lynch
Roy M. Maier & Jimmie
Roberts
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
Debra Almassy
Dr. Theresa Alo
Monika Faust Barilla
David Boarman, II
Brent Bovell
Justin Bowie
Kim Bowie-Hendricks
Alison Brooks
Destiny Brown
Nicole Brown
Jackie Bryant
Johnathon Clinkscates
Judy Crawford
Danelle Danzy
Michelle Evans
Roxana Gonzales
Cynthia Paige Gossage
Barbara L. Graves
William M. Graves
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Barbara Hufford
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Holly Leymeister
Dianne E. Lyon
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Julie A. Meisel
Sandi Middleton
Judith Miller
Nadira Nunez
Jennifer Pinto
Cynthia Snyder
Beverly Taylor
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 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 Dashiell
Jack Dennis
Holly Dilatush
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

Arnold Hurley
Renée Jefferson-Copeland
Mary Ann Jenkins
Gordon Ray Johnson
William Jones
Mary Kercher
Robert Kyle
Carl Lancaster
Philip L. Lang
Addison Newton Likins
Beverlie J. Ludy
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Frank Roth
Buddy Scott
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Roger E. Smith
Jill Smithson
Nancy Swenson
Ruth A. Thomas
Evans Thorne
Paul Toscano
Ernestine Ware
Reginald Ware
David Zippi

Youth

Kayla Berry
Ja Leana Graves
Sky Ann Hall
Melissa Hatcher
Jaden Hendricks
Joshua Owen
Cali Quade

We

Our
Members

CCAA Membership Form



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.

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 – \$10 (FY21 Discount, August 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)**
- ☐ Senior (60+) – \$20
- ☐ **Youth (under 18) – FREE (FY21 Discount, August 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)**

Business & Nonprofit:

- ☐ Corporate – \$500
- ☐ Business – \$250

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

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

☐ **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!

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ArtsFest Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budget/Finance/Audit Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach/Marketing Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Events Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative/Office Work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gallery Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical/IT Support |

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

Arts Insider

August 2020

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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



One day you will wake up and there won't be any more time to do the things you've always wanted. Do it now.

PAULO COELHO



P.O. Box 697
White Plains, MD 20695



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