Expanded Fellowships
Serving Remarkable Artists with Disabilities

Making a Difference
Ragdale’s 40-Year Legacy

Jacquelyn Mitchard
Vulnerability and Breakthrough

Ragdale in Schools
New Initiatives for 2016
Howard Van Doren Shaw created Ragdale more than 100 years ago because he understood the importance of artistic retreat. In 1976 Alice Judson Hayes furthered her grandfather’s vision by establishing the Ragdale Foundation and opening its historic campus to thousands of new artists in residence. Today Ragdale enjoys a national reputation for excellence. It is one of the largest and most dynamic arts organizations in our region, offering opportunities for creation, experimentation, and exchange to artists, writers, designers, and scholars from around the world.

We will soon celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Ragdale Foundation by cherishing its rich history and launching several new programs that further the artists of today and tomorrow. We are routinely awed by how much our residents achieve while working at Ragdale, but much of their work leaves our campus unseen by the local community. To address this gap we are developing new programmatic platforms and partnerships to better connect our artists and their work with regional audiences. As you will learn from the following articles, new and expanded fellowships will soon provide more support to exceptional artists and writers. In return, our fellows will be featured in a series of on-campus and off-campus offerings for teachers, teaching artists, and their students. We are excited to be providing more for our artists and sharing new resources with our educational partners. This important work is at the heart of Ragdale’s mission, and we invite you to join us.

Jeffrey Meeuwsen, Executive Director

NEW AND EXPANDED FELLOWSHIPS: Serving Remarkable Artists with Disabilities

Through the generosity of our donors as well as a new collaboration with the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation, the Vermont Studio Center, and the Santa Fe Art Institute, artists and writers with disabilities now have added opportunities for fully-supported fellowships at Ragdale. These experiences foster artistic growth and provide rare occasion for in-depth exchange with creative peers. Ragdale is one of few artists’ communities in the U.S. to deliver funding, residency, and a fully-accessible live/work studio to artists with disabilities. With demand increasing and applications being received from around the world, we are now working to secure additional support for travel, shipping, and personal assistance.

All Ragdale Fellows and their work will be featured in public programs including “Ragdale in Schools.” We are pleased to introduce several remarkable new fellows to regional audiences over the coming months. Please let us know if you would like to support or participate in these offerings.

I was treated extremely well. The staff was unbelievably considerate and kind. Many places I go I am treated as a disability. The Ragdale staff made me feel like I was a person and an artist first.

Gail Foster, visual artist, Atlanta, GA
As Ragdale approaches its 40th anniversary, we are striving to make a lasting difference in the lives of artists, to foster a love of creativity and healthy self-expression in our schools, and to provide informative, inventive programming for the community in which we live. I am filled with gratitude toward Ragdale’s many dedicated supporters, alumni, staff, and trustees. Thank you all for your contributions. From enjoying open-air performances in the Ragdale Ring on a summer evening to meeting renowned artists at Ragdale events, 2015 has been a magical year. Rather than attempt to describe some of the many events that occurred over the past year, perhaps it is best to let others do the talking. Included here are a few of the recent comments overheard on the Ragdale campus. If you aren’t familiar with our organization, I invite you to take a closer look.

With gratitude,
Sally McDonald, Ragdale Board President

“I noticed a greater confidence in my student this year. She participates more in class, she takes chances in her writing, and overall seems even wiser beyond her years than she did before.”

Adrienne Dudek, English teacher at Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep whose student took part in Ragdale’s High School Writing Intensive

“Ragdale is the place where I first began to see myself as a writer, not only as a person who occasionally wrote.”

Christine Sneed, fiction writer, Chicago, IL

“Ragdale is generosity personified.”

Anita Sawyer, nonfiction writer, North Branford, CT

“This was my first time recommending students for program consideration, and both I and the students were thrilled with the experience. Both (students) spoke to how beneficial the program was to their knowledge and understanding of writing/rhetoric. I thank you for your time and work, and I look forward to nominating future students to attend!”

Christina Cooper, English teacher and head speech team coach at Warren Township High School

“If it weren’t for this gift called Ragdale, my dream of ever publishing a book would remain just that: a dream.”

Angela Narciso Torres, poet, Chicago, IL
Ragdale fellowships recognize outstanding achievements in the arts and are the basis for our school partnerships and community programs. Here are just a few of our 2015-2016 Fellows who will be featured around the region in the coming months. We thank them for sharing their work and their talents with our local students, teachers, and audiences.

**FELLOWSHIP**

**A: COMMUNITY OF INTEREST, ACTIVITY, FEELING, OR EXPERIENCE**

**B: THE STATE OF BEING A FELLOW OR ASSOCIATE**

**ERICA MOTT**
Choreographer and cultural organizer who utilizes body-based sculptural forms (mask/costume/object) to transform discarded materials and disregarded spaces

**KAREN VILLEDÁ**
Mexican writer whose many awards have included the Youth Prize of Mexico City, the Fine Arts Prize for Children’s Fiction, and the National Award of Youth Poetry

**ERICA MOTT**
New York City-based artist, educator, and dedicated proponent of inclusion through the arts, especially for the disabled and underserved

**JULIA ANTONICK**
New York Times best-selling author of Girl in Translation and Mambo in Chinatown, Jean Kwok is the tenth recipient of the Hannah Judy Gretz fellowship. This year the fellowship included a presentation at the Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart and a Tea + Talk at Ragdale. Hannah was one of the first to underwrite this type of fellowship, leading the way for award-winning authors to come to Ragdale, write, and share their work with our community. Thank you, Hannah!

**JONATHAN MEYER**
Founders of Khecari, widely considered to be one of Chicago’s most innovative dance companies

**JIM DUIGNAN**
Artist and Chair of Visual Art Education at DePaul University, Duignan has worked with underserved youth since 1995 when he founded the internationally celebrated Stockyard Institute

**JANICE HARRINGTON**
Poet, children’s writer, educator, and recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship for Poetry

**RENÉE BAKER**
Composer, violinist/violist, conductor, and founder/leader of 13 contemporary music entities, including the Chicago Modern Orchestra Project and the Renée Baker Trio

**ALEX SHAKAR**
Shakar’s latest novel, Luminarium, won the 2011 Los Angeles Times Book Prize in Fiction. It was also named an Editor’s Choice by The New York Times

**GORDON SASAKI**
New York City-based artist, educator, and dedicated proponent of inclusion through the arts, especially for the disabled and underserved

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ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE 2015

MARCO ACEVEDO, Interdisciplinary
TONY ADLER, Fiction
VICTOR ALEXANDER, Dance
IGNATIUS ALOYSIUS, Interdisciplinary
JULIA RAE ANTONICK, Dance
RENEE BAKER, Music Composition
ELBIO BARILARI, Music Composition
ZACH BARNER, Interdisciplinary
KATHERINE BAYER, Architecture/Design
ARMAND BEAUDOIN, Music Composition
ROBERT BECKER, Architecture/Design
MEGAN (MOE) BEITIKS, Interdisciplinary
VIRGINIA BELL, Poetry
ELIZABETH BERG, Fiction
XOCHITL-JULISA BERMEJO, Nonfiction
DEBORAH BOARDMAN, Visual Arts
SARI BOREN, Nonfiction
ALEXANDRA BRUMLEY, Visual Arts
SUZETTE BULLEY BROSS, Visual Arts
PAOLA CABAL, Visual Arts
ANITA CABRERA, Fiction
DANIEL CANTOR, Theatre
STEPHANIE CARPENTER, Fiction
JESSICA CHALMERS, Dance
RITA CIRESI, Fiction
ANDREA CLEARFIELD, Music Composition
RANDY SUE COBURN, Fiction
MARK COMISKY, Interdisciplinary
JUDITH COOPER, Fiction
JOHN COPENHAVER, Fiction
KATHERINE COX, Visual Arts
ALEX CULLER, Architecture/Design
KRISTINA DARLING, Poetry
SARA DAVIS, Fiction
GIOIA DILIBERTO, Nonfiction
RITA DRAGONETTE, Fiction
J'SUN HOWARD, Dance
JAN CHRISTOPHER-BERKSON, Visual Arts
GARY HUSTON, Theatre
RYAN INGELBRITEN, Interdisciplinary
KATHRYN ISABELLE, Dance
CHRISTINE JAMES, Visual Arts
MELISSA JAY CRAIG, Visual Arts
ANDREW JENNINGS, Architecture/Design
CLARKE JAMES, Visual Arts
KRISTINA KALLOS, Fiction
STEPHANIE KALLOS, Fiction
SCOTTIE KERST-WILSON, Play/Screen
CHRISTOPHER KNOWLTON, Interdisciplinary
ELOY KOKOSCHKA, Fiction
DEBORAH KOSSMANN, Nonfiction
ALEX KOTLOWITZ, Nonfiction
BRANDON KRIEG, Poetry
CHIARA KOUBEK, Fiction
RONNIE KULLER, Music Composition
ELIZABETH LEDO, Theatre
JAMIE LEE, Visual Arts
NICOLE LEGETTE, Dance
ERIC LEONARDSON, Interdisciplinary
LAUREN LEVATO COYNE, Visual Arts
BRANDON LEVATO, Nonfiction
AMANDA LICHTENSTEIN, Nonfiction
BETTY LITWIN, Interdisciplinary
THOMAS LOESER, Visual Arts
EMILY GRAY TEDROWE, Fiction

175 CREATIVE PRACTITIONERS FROM 28 STATES AND 5 COUNTRIES

DAVID GROFF, Poetry
PIERRE-EMILE GROLLMUND, Landscape Design
NANCY GROSSMAN, Fiction
BETH HAHN, Fiction
LILY HAMRICK, Fiction
JEAN HANFF KORELITZ, Fiction
RACHEL HARRER, Visual Arts
EMILY HERMANT, Visual Arts
INGRID HESS, Visual Arts
STEWART HICKS, Architecture/Design
MAGGIE HILL, Fiction
ELLEN HOLTZBLATT, Visual Arts
JOHN HORTON, Poetry

BRET LOTT, Fiction
In my daily life I don’t have the constant stretch of time to work. This is why residencies are vital. New things happen. I’m up until 2 or 3 am working. I wake around 8 am and get right to work. I’m finally trying out things I’ve wanted to try for ages. It’s really good here.

Lauren Levato Coyne, visual artist, Evanston, IL
A Ragdale Tale of Sharing and Community

By Laura Kramer

On the south side of the Ragdale House, there is a lonely equestrian statue, so worn from the elements that it is nearly impossible to recognize what it represents. And yet it was treasured by the Shaw family and continues to hold great symbolic meaning for Ragdale.

Howard Van Doren Shaw bought the ancient statue in an antique shop in France before WWI. He shipped it back to Ragdale but, unfortunately, it arrived in shambles, broken into 12 pieces. When he filed a claim with the insurance company, they told him it wasn’t insured against breakage. Shaw replied, “What was it insured against, measles?” At that time maritime insurance covered only loss at sea. Still, it was important enough to be painstakingly repaired and placed in the garden, in direct view from the living room. So who is it and why was it so loved by the Shaws?

What could be the significance of St. Martin for Ragdale? The story tells of a poor beggar dressed only in rags and St. Martin who used his sword not for war but to share his cloak with the man for a source of warmth. Rags are a reminder of the simplicity of Ragdale and its welcoming home for creative people of all types. St. Martin of Tours remains for us an artistic reminder of Ragdale’s dedication to creating a nurturing, protective environment of sharing and inspiration for all those who come through its gates.

The limestone horse and rider represent St. Martin of Tours, a fourth-century Roman soldier who traveled around Europe with the army until, later in life, when he became the bishop of Tours. Martin realized early on in his military career that he was a lover, not a fighter. Legend has it that one wintery morning he was riding up toward the city gates of Amiens when he came across a scantily-clad beggar. Moved by his plight, Martin reached for his sword and slashed his own cloak, giving half of it away to the poor man. That night Martin dreamed the poor soul was Jesus in disguise. Martin’s cloak was considered miraculous, and over the centuries it was venerated by kings and jealously protected by priests in special areas in the church. Curiously, the Latin word for cloak is “cappa,” which is the root for the words “chaplain” and “chapel.”

Laura Kramer recently joined the Ragdale team as Donor Relations Manager. A North Shore native with an M.A. in Italian Renaissance Art (UIC) plus extensive sales experience, Laura has a passion for art, dance, theatre, languages, and music. It all comes full circle here where she bridges the connection between the community and the Ragdale mission. She is looking forward to sharing more stories, giving us even more to appreciate about our beloved Ragdale.
In 2013 I again drove through the white pillars with the lanterns on top and looked up at the Ragdale House, which looked down and recognized me as one of her own. I said, help me. I have a story to tell and I’m pretty sure that the candle in me has gone out. Take me in. I have nothing to lose.

I poured out the story of a man with nothing left to believe in, a man who rescues a little boy with an impossible gift and must protect him—whatever the cost.

In March, Simon and Schuster will publish Two if By Sea.

At a recent booksellers show near Chicago, an important book reviewer wrote that almost all the people she interviewed said the one book of the year they were most excited to read and to sell was Jacquelyn Mitchard’s, my first novel in five years. Nothing is certain but hope. Sometimes hope is all you need.

I’m not a fanciful person. I’m practical, and I know for sure that hard work is the best kind of good luck. Ragdale doesn’t give artists and writers a vacation; it gives artists and writers the chance to work harder than they ever have. We come to dinner worn out, each of us hoping that what we paint or write will reach a boy or girl in a classroom, or someone in a cubicle hiding a novel behind the annual report, or a woman sitting on the floor of her closet where her book light won’t wake anyone—and those people will say, this is true. I love this. Some of them will say, I can do this too. And Ragdale may take them in.

Ragdale is our backyard national treasure. If I had never opened the door of the Ragdale House, you would never have opened a book that I wrote. There are so many like me wondering if they dare. Let them dare. The greatest days are yet to come.
A NEW INITIATIVE FOR 2016:
RAGDALE IN SCHOOLS

“Thank you for everything you are doing for the fine young writers in the region.”

Bill Fritz, teacher
Adlai E. Stevenson High School
Ragdale is unique: no other organization in the Midwest brings together more top creative talent from near and far. We are aware, however, that many schools in our area struggle to provide key aspects of arts and humanities education. Even well-resourced schools are limited in the breadth and depth of creative career explorations and mentorships they can offer. Let’s change it.

Over the past year Ragdale has been developing a visionary program to address this need. Our staff has been collaborating with experts from DePaul University and the Stockyard Institute to assess shortfalls and seize opportunities for Ragdale’s artistic residents to enliven local classrooms and nurture creative excellence.

For 2016 we are pleased to launch Ragdale in Schools, a new series of educational opportunities that allows teachers from Zion to Chicago to select the Ragdale Fellow(s) of their choice who best meets their classroom goals. Each year at least 15 visionary Ragdale Fellows will be matched with schools. Their mission will be to offer students tools for healthy self-expression, community engagement, cultural exchange, and career development.

We are also building on the model of our highly acclaimed High School Writing Intensive. We have expanded our free, multilayered educational programs that open Ragdale’s campus to high school students from Chicago to Waukegan. A new High School Arts Week will feature four week-long workshops that will bring together creative young people from diverse backgrounds and introduce opportunities not found in traditional classrooms. A special open-studio event at the conclusion of Arts Week will celebrate student achievements and allow them to share their new works with parents, teachers, and the general public. These free programs are underwritten by Ragdale donors and include supplies, meals, and transportation reimbursement.

Ragdale also now offers school tours and art workshops for K-12 students. Led by trained teaching artists and docents, students are encouraged to look closely, share personal perspectives, and build connections to their own lives.

Other new school initiatives include:

- video documentaries of Ragdale Fellows provided free of charge for classroom use
- “tickets for teachers” program, which invites teachers and teaching artists to Ragdale events, sponsored by our donors
- teacher + teaching artist thematic residencies

To fund Ragdale in Schools, we have refreshed the focus of our giving society, INSIDE1260. Gifts at the $7,500 and $15,000 levels now establish Ragdale in Schools fellowships. Contributions at all levels help to support educational programs. Please join us.
WELCOME TO INSIDE126O

Your investment will advance artistic careers, new creative works, and Ragdale’s school initiatives—a continuum of on-campus and off-campus outreach programs to enliven education by matching Ragdale Fellows with regional teachers and their students.

BENEFITS OF THE INSIDE126O GIVING SOCIETY

ALL DONORS RECEIVE:
• Invitation to at least three unique and exclusive INSIDE126O events annually
• VIP seating and privileges at artists’ presentations, performances, and readings
• VIP parking for special events
• Special workshops and tours for youth and adults
• Recognition in published materials and on the Ragdale website

LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION

ADVOCATE $1,500 Level ($1,300 tax-deductible)
• Benefits above
• Season tickets for your entire household to the Ragdale Ring summer performances

COLLECTOR $3,000 Level ($2,670 tax-deductible)
• Benefits above
• Two VIP tickets for Novel Affair’s Friday reception
• A studio tour for up to 12 guests, including demonstrations / talks by visiting artists

EDUCATOR $7,500 Level ($7,170 tax-deductible)
• Benefits above
• Yearlong recognition as the underwriter of an 18- or 25-day “Ragdale in Schools” fellowship
• Reception with your artist fellow, the executive director, and up to 12 guests

ARCHITECT $15,000 Level ($14,470 tax-deductible)
• Benefits above
• 4-hour facility usage in the Ragdale House, Barn House, or Ragdale Ring* (may be gifted to a charity or school)

*during residency breaks; based on availability
JOIN US TO CHAMPION ARTS EDUCATION, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, AND NURTURE THE GROUNDBREAKING ARTISTS OF OUR TIME.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alison Aldrich and John Varones</th>
<th>Karen Riley and Roger McEniry</th>
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<td>Jane and Howard Alt</td>
<td>Jean and Frank Mohr</td>
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OUR WORK WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR INSIDE1260 GIVING SOCIETY AND THE FOLLOWING DONORS AND PARTNERS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS IN 2015.

Randy Albers
Alison Buck Floral Design
All Things Party
Jorie Alutto
Mary and David Andersen
The Arrow Shop
Arup Engineering
Francie and Hank Ashforth
Authentico
Bank of America
Ann and Steve Bartram
Michele and Daniel Becker
Kathryn and Walter Begley
Prue and Francis Beidler
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Anne and Stephen Bent
Paula Bloom
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Brandstorm
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Anne and Alan Lerner
Barbara and Brian Leutz
Veda and David Levin
Beth Loeb
Lucien Lagrange Studio
Thomas MacCarthy
Suzanne Mahoney

Arts Alliance of Arts Communities
Illinois Arts Council
WISH LIST

Please consider donating high-quality new and gently used items so that we can continue to offer a superior resident experience and well-documented educational programs.

High-resolution camera with video and sound capability (microphone and tripod)

Large-capacity food processor (commercial grade – NSL approved)

Electric hot water kettles (commercial grade – NSL approved)

Extra-long table runners and rectangular table cloths (or at least 2 of the same design)

Two commercial grade vacuums

20 placemats

20 large white soup bowls

Extra-large serving platter

White bed linens and mattress pads (4 Twin, 4 Full, and 5 Queen)

Beach towels and white bath towels

Vintage tea cups and saucers

* Includes gifts made between January 1 – November 7, 2015. Please accept our sincere apologies for any mistakes or omissions. If you note an error, please contact Laura Kramer at 847.234.1063 ext. 24 or laura@ragdale.org.

Contact info@ragdale.org or call 847.234.1063 to make a donation.
Thank you 2015 Volunteers!

**Sherry and Del Grapes**
Sherry and Del Grapes have been generous and consistent volunteers for nearly 10 years. Their considerable gifts of time and expertise have benefitted the ornamental and vegetable gardens, library of alumni work, public tours, special events, beekeeping, and building restoration projects at Ragdale.

**Lowell Isenberg**
All of our IT systems exist because of one bighearted volunteer, Lowell Isenberg. He has sourced and installed our server and WiFi network, donated untold hours troubleshooting issues, helped us to recover from a devastating lightning strike, and migrated us to cloud-based solutions.

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**Thomas Capstick**
Lowell Isenberg
Deerpath Middle School Students
Del Grapes
Henry Hodge
Andrew Levin
Kyle Levin
Maggie Manoyan
Eddie Morfin
Katherine Voltchek
Hayley Ward
Carson Ward

**Robert Rubin, Chair**
Randy Albers
Ramona Ausubel
Heidi Durrow
Jacquelyn Mitchard
Deborah Siegel
Davis Schneiderman

**Ragdale Ring Jurors**
Zurich Esposito
Regin Igloria
Walker Johnson
Michael Loverich
Ann Merritt
Jeffrey Meeuwsen
Phil Rosborough
Antonio Torres Torres
“Ragdale opened up for me the mystery of the creative process and the devotion to craft. On the surface, Ragdale is an artists’ residency. Underneath, it is so much more. Ragdale is an incubator for creativity that reaches across a broad swath of artists, whether they are professionals, students, teachers, or business men and women.”

Grove Mower, Ragdale Trustee
### 2015

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td><strong>APRIL 29 &amp; 30</strong></td>
<td>Novel Affair</td>
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<td><strong>DECEMBER 5</strong></td>
<td>Chicago Literary Hall of Fame ceremony honoring Alice Judson Hayes</td>
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<td><strong>DECEMBER 6</strong></td>
<td>Holiday Fête + Tree Lighting</td>
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### 2016

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<tr>
<td><strong>JUNE 9</strong></td>
<td>Benefactors Garden Party + Ragdale Ring Preview</td>
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<td><strong>JUNE 18</strong></td>
<td>Ragdale’s 40th Birthday Party + Shaw Family Reunion (Ragdale Ring Performance 1)</td>
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<td><strong>JULY 14</strong></td>
<td>Ragdale Ring Performance 2</td>
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<td><strong>JULY 18–22</strong></td>
<td>High School Arts Week – Writing, Visual Arts, &amp; Performing Arts Intensives</td>
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<td><strong>JULY 22</strong></td>
<td>Arts Week Open House</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AUGUST 18</strong></td>
<td>Ragdale Ring Performance 3: Alumni Picnic</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SEPTEMBER 18</strong></td>
<td>Ragdale Ring Performance 4: Extravaganza</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OCTOBER 23</strong></td>
<td>Rags To Witches: A Creative Spookfest</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DECEMBER 11</strong></td>
<td>Holiday Fête + Tree Lighting</td>
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### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **TEA & TALK**
  - Presentations by Ragdale Fellows on the second Wednesday of each month