

# ARTS NEWS

JUNE 2020



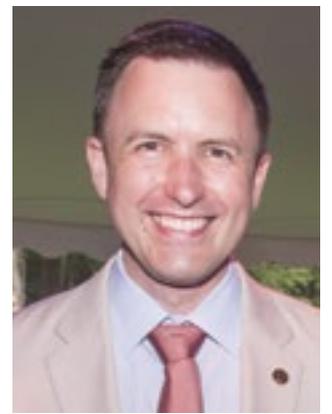
Steve Abusch,  
The Play Group  
Theatre



Krista Madsen,  
Hudson Valley  
Writers Center



John Brathwaite,  
PJS Jazz Society

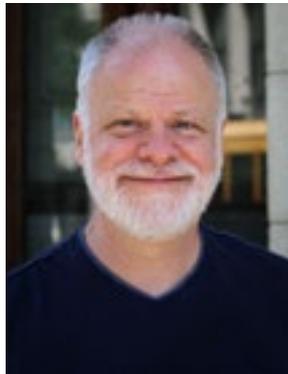


Jeff Haydon,  
Caramoor Center for  
Music and the Arts



Waddell Stillman,  
Historic Hudson Valley

## Culture in the Age of Covid: Voices From the Field Arts leaders speak out about the recovery.



Doug Coe,  
RiverArts



Emily Peck,  
Clay Art Center



Howard Zar,  
Lyndhurst



Livia Straus,  
Hudson Valley Museum  
of Contemporary Art

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Westchester gov.com From the County Executive

Thank you for taking a few moments to read this June edition of ArtsNews. As you may already know, many arts events have been canceled or postponed as a result of the Coronavirus. These are unprecedented times, and we are all worried about the impact that COVID-19 can have on the

health and well-being of all residents living in Westchester County.

Our arts community is one of many that are hurting, and many of our organizations will struggle to bounce back from the devastating impact of this illness. But, there are many groups that are doing everything they can to change and adapt during these challenging times – moving classes online, encouraging art-making on social media, live-streaming concerts and more. I encourage you all to take a few moments of respite, and participate if you can.

ArtsWestchester will be a resource for our struggling artists and art groups as this public health crisis unfolds. Our message is a simple one – the arts are here to help heal us, and the arts will still be here for us when we get through this crisis stronger than ever before.

Thank you, George Latimer Westchester County Executive

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The work of ArtsWestchester is made possible with support from Westchester County Government.

George Latimer County Executive

Benjamin Boykin Chairman, Westchester Board of Legislators

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ArtsNews (artsw.org), your guide to arts and culture in Westchester County, NY, is published by ARTSWESTCHESTER, a private, not-for-profit organization established in 1965. The largest of its kind in New York State, it serves more than 150 cultural organizations, numerous school districts, hundreds of artists, and audiences numbering more than one million. The goal of ArtsWestchester is to ensure the availability, accessibility, and diversity of the arts in Westchester.



## FROM THE CEO

by Janet Langsam,  
ArtsWestchester CEO



(photo credit: Cathy Pinsky)

# Culture in the Age of Covid

In the northern part of Westchester, where I live, spring is announced by the high tones of the chipmunks and the baritones of the bullfrogs. I watch the little creatures scurrying about all day and at night. I listen to the groans of the bullfrogs. For me, these signs of re-emerging life are a metaphor for the stirrings of our cultural community in the spring. This year, they are scurrying more prodigiously than ever to tailor their programs for their Covid realities. Their creativity is undaunted as we all face many new norms. Some are strutting their stuff online.

Others are bringing the arts and music outdoors. As we all navigate these Covid times together, be assured that the arts are alive in the county and are dedicated to a strong recovery and reawakening of the things we all love to do. It won't be the same but, given time, it can be even better than before. In the months ahead, *ArtsNews* will be featuring our cultural leaders and their plans. Stay tuned... and receive *ArtsNews* in your email by [clicking here](#) to subscribe.



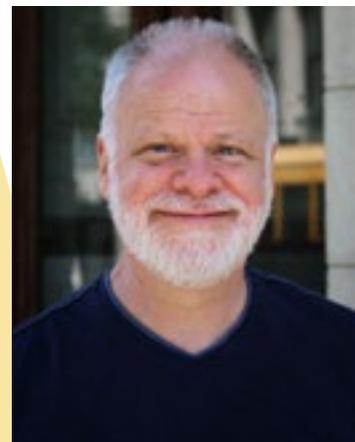
(detail) Hanazono (flower garden) by Kyoshi Otsuka



Don't miss Janet's weekly blog posts at: [thisandthatbyjl.com](https://thisandthatbyjl.com)

"At RiverArts, we are pivoting our programs to virtual. Our music lessons are online. We've lost some kids, but gained others. We are also redesigning summer camp to happen virtually."

— Doug Coe, Executive Director, RiverArts



# Culture in the Age of Cov



"While our region remains on pause, we have a robust calendar with upcoming residencies, intensive classes and our recurring events."

— Krista Madsen, Managing Director,  
Hudson Valley Writers Center

"Many of our revenue sources have dried up due to COVID-19. Rental income is now dormant. We had a good business, where we rented specialty props to other theaters around the country. That has also dried up. What's a specialty prop? Things like a magic chalkboard and a disappearing cake for the musical *Madeline*."

— Steve Abusch, Co-Founder and Executive Director,  
The Play Group Theatre



"PJS Jazz Society is planning a live concert on September 12th. Due to social distancing measures, we are prepared to change the format if necessary."

— John Brathwaite, President

“The reopening rules need to be different for small organizations like ours than for large multi-seat theaters. We have 11,000 square feet...enough space for social distancing for our classes and our studio artists.”

– Emily Peck, Executive Director,  
Clay Art Center



# Mid: Voices From the Field

“We offer readings, events.”

“I am hopeful that the local community has been lifted by our first reopening on September 13, 2020. If social distancing rules are in place, we are looking at the layout of our venue.”

– President, PJS Jazz Society



“This is a time when the arts are of particular importance – to lift our spirits, keep our minds and imaginations active, to inspire, and to challenge us amid the disruptions of our normal routines and the closure of all the museums, theaters, concert venues, cinemas, and other places we would ordinarily congregate to enjoy and celebrate the creation and presentation of the arts.”

– Valerie Leis, President,  
Board of the Croton Council on the Arts

“With everyone working online, the sculpture walk is a safe, beautiful and educational way to have a 'real life' experience, appreciate art within the beauty of the Hudson Valley/Hudson River landscape, and be inspired. The sculpture and art trail in Peekskill will be expanded exponentially if Hudson Valley MOCA receives the funding it needs.”

—Livia Straus, President, Hudson Valley Museum of Contemporary Art



“Right now, I am trying to figure out how to present orchestral music to a socially-distanced audience. With six feet in between individuals, we could seat only 130 people in the Performing Arts Center's 1,300-seat theater.”

—Josh Worby, Executive Director, Westchester Philharmonic

“We made a decision to continue our landscape restoration to offer more outdoor areas for enjoyment.”

— Howard Zar, Executive Director, Lyndhurst



# The Secret is Out... The Blaze Will Glow Again This Year

by Janet Langsam, ArtsWestchester CEO

It's a little early to be thinking about pumpkins. The roses are hardly in bloom. But ever since COVID-19 became a crisis, Waddell Stillman has been obsessed with those orange creatures of fall. Stillman is not a farmer, but the President and CEO of Historic Hudson Valley (HHV), the organization that, in 2005 dreamed up The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze, which has been held ever since at Van Cortlandt Manor in Croton-on-Hudson. Now that the Governor's recovery plan will allow outdoor activities, Stillman has given the green light to this year's event. The Blaze is a major fundraiser for HHV and, with a sigh of relief, Stillman tells us: "The Blaze will take place this year, scaled back in number of visitors to comply with social distancing, but the pumpkins are on the way." And to prove it, he will show you the invoice... he's already paid for the pumpkins.

Each year, tens of thousands of pumpkins are trucked into the historic site and then hand-carved into jack o'lanterns by artists from around the Metro area. Then, they are lit up throughout the grounds from late September through November. Many are real and some are Funkin-brand "art pumpkins." Every single jack o'lantern, farm-grown or art pumpkin, is individually hand-carved on-site at Van Cortlandt Manor by a team of some two-dozen local artists, volunteers and Historic Hudson Valley staff members, all led by Creative Director Michael Natiello. Carving of the art pumpkins begins in June. The real pumpkins are carved throughout the run of the Blaze. Prior to each event week, it takes 15 to 20 volunteers several days of scooping pulp and seeds from the pumpkins to get them ready for the carvers. And yes, the pulp and seeds are composted.



Waddell Stillman (photo courtesy of Historic Hudson Valley)

The Blaze started as a local celebration in 2005. Last year's event drew more than 190,000 visitors, bringing in significant revenue to help the non-profit support its education programs. Stillman recalls that a large number of visitors have stayed overnight in the area, which of course is music to the ears of the tourism folks, who have been hard hit this year. The synergy between arts and culture and economic development is robust, according to studies by Americans for the Arts, which estimate that the arts have a \$172 million economic impact in Westchester. Events are big earners for non-profit cultural organizations, enabling them to tap into outside resources. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 crisis will put a crimp in that source of funding for many cultural groups, especially those with indoor venues. Nevertheless, the good news is that the pumpkins are a "go" this year.

feature

# The “Current” Keeps on Moving

by Kathleen Reckling, Deputy Director of Public Programs, ArtsWestchester



Current

When COVID-19 landed in North America, artist Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong was away from her New York home, balancing a residency in Calgary, Canada with overseeing the complex fabrication of her monumental sculpture, *Current*. There was still pasta on the shelves of supermarkets in Canada, but the Trader Joe’s near her Manhattan apartment was already out of any macaroni that wasn’t made from lentils. She boarded the last plane that was allowed to fly into the

United States, and prepared to hunker down with family. While her Canada residency was on pause, Wong was still hard at work realizing *Current*.

The clean, elegant geometry of *Current*, a 25-foot telescoping sculpture for the Westchester Landing of the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge’s shared use path, evokes a variety of familiar images. A ripple in the water. A sound wave. A Microsoft Windows



by Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong during installation (photo courtesy of the artist)

screensaver from the 1990s. The works of Sol LeWitt. The rising and falling lines of the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge itself. Deceptively simple in form, the site-responsive artwork is a multi-layered monument to the passage of time.

Wong is an artist who works at the intersection of art and architecture, using interactive sculptures, installations and performances to explore how the spaces we build and occupy

Like New York State's motto, 'ever upward,' the sculpture's graduated triangular arches march to the horizon, symbolically pointing to what's to come.

influence our relationships with one another. Her work is grounded in the reality that architecture is functional, but shapes social interactions – race, gender and politics all play out in the places we make. *Current* builds on her creative practice. The sculpture references the triumphs of the bridge's design and engineering, while offering an engaging portal through which viewers can experience the dynamic Hudson Valley landscape.

Like New York State's motto, "ever upward," the sculpture's graduated triangular arches march to the horizon, symbolically pointing to what's to come. The piece poetically emerges from the past, its foundation formed from remnant steel that comes from the decommissioned Tappan Zee Bridge. Meanwhile, the echoing triangles are like ghostly traces of the tall-mast ships that once traveled along the river. The sculpture includes programmed, integrated LED lighting. Motion sensors near the sculpture will activate light animations and, as darkness rises, hourly "chimes" of light will mark the passage from day to night.

The strength of *Current* is that it is at once familiar, yet ever-changing. *Current* is fundamentally about taking time to experience the present. The sculpture's viewers in the here-and-now play an active role in shaping how others experience the work. The changing times of day, weather and seasons, in addition to fluctuations in bike and pedestrian traffic, will offer a new experience of the work. These changes will activate light animations or change the hues, refracted in dichroic glass fins that sit at each triangle's apex. The work is a reminder that no matter how many times one may visit a place, each experience of that landscape is actually unique. Like the Hudson River, and the people and vehicles passing over it, *Current* is ever moving, ever flowing.

## feature



# Artist Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong Brings *Current* Into Being

by Michelle Falkenstein

Installing *Current*, Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong's winning sculpture design, in Tarrytown at the Westchester Landing of the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge's path, is a challenging endeavor.

In addition to time, the sculpture's triangular steel arches, glass fins and complex lighting design require a team of installers, electricians and engineers to ensure the interactive artwork operates as designed, all under the vigilant eye of Wong herself.

The 12 arches range in size from 4-feet 6-inches at one end to 25 feet at the other. A halo of LED lights with gel silicone diffusers frame the arches, giving them a hazy glow. Motion sensors on the sculpture will respond to movement, playing light animations as visitors move around it during the evening hours. "It responds to your presence," Wong says of the piece.

On top of the arches, dichroic glass fins will appear pink, purple,

*Working on the fabrication of Current by Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong (photo courtesy of the artist)*

“There’s also an historical element to the piece – reclaimed pieces of the Tappan Zee Bridge will serve as part of the formwork to pour the sculpture’s foundation, as well as mullions to secure the glass fins to the arches.”

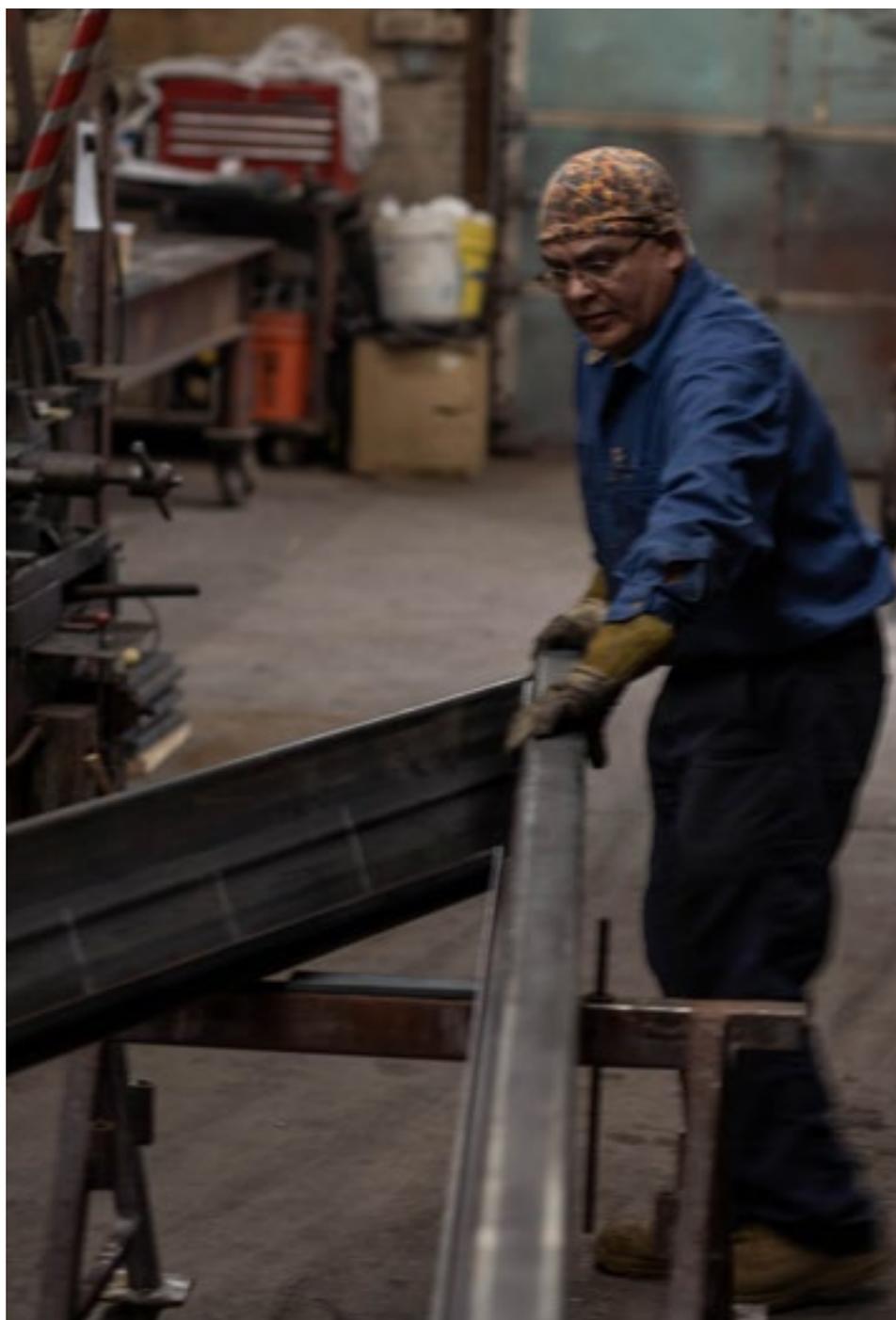
yellow or gold, depending on the position of the viewer. Made from laminated glass with a film that changes color when seen from different angles, they shimmer with iridescence. The fins will be placed and bolted by hand once the rest of the sculpture is installed to avoid breakage.

There’s also an historical element to the piece – reclaimed pieces of the Tappan Zee Bridge will serve as part of the formwork to pour the sculpture’s foundation, as well as mullions to secure the glass fins to the arches.

As designed, visitors looking through the narrow end of *Current* will see the new bridge in the distance.

“It will always be reflecting light, making shadows and light drawings,” Wong says. “Throughout the year it will change – it will always be different in some way.” In the future, she may reprogram the light animations to create different patterns.

Wong’s project was one of 10 commissioned artworks chosen by a committee that included representatives from ArtsWestchester, Arts Council of Rockland and the New York State Thruway Authority. The winning entries, comprising sculptures, bicycle racks and a mural, have been, or will be, installed on or near the bridge’s shared pedestrian and bicycle path.



*Working on the fabrication of Current by Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong (photo courtesy of the artist)*

Wong, who lives in downtown Manhattan, learned about ArtsWestchester from a videographer friend. After signing up for ArtsWestchester’s mailing list, she received an email about an open call for art projects for the new bridge and submitted her proposal.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Wong has now lived in New York for 14 years. She earned a bachelor’s degree in Art and Italian from the University of California at Berkeley and a master’s degree in Architecture from Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. She also studied sculpture at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera in Milan, Italy. Wong has created other public art commissions, including for the City of Inglewood Department of Parks and Recreation, the NYC Parks Department and the Percentage for Art program in Washington, D.C.

“I started out on the art pathway at first,” Wong says. “Studying architecture wasn’t at all planned – I also applied for MFAs – but I thought it could inform my art practice.” Now, she says, she finds herself involved with both art and construction, areas of knowledge that are helping bring *Current* into being.

## spotlight

# The music will play on at Caramoor!

by Jeff Haydon, Caramoor CEO

Caramoor was built not only as a home for great music, but as a respite for all visitors to find inspiration and peace, and was born out of a love for family and community. Over the past few months, we have been working to ensure that tradition of music and hospitality endures this summer and we are excited to share our plan with you.

The music will play on!

While we have to cancel our 2020 Summer Season as it had originally been programmed, Caramoor's Summer 20/2.0 is a three-part flexible plan that enables us to provide the music and sights of Caramoor with your safety and comfort in mind.

Aiming to responsibly participate in New York's re-opening process, this three-part plan begins July 2 when we will kick off the first of our seven new streamed performances by world-class artists filmed in the Music Room. Later in the summer, we have scheduled

four live, public, open-air concerts on Friends Field suitable for safe distancing and small audiences. Finally, when construction allows for the safe return of visitors, we hope to open up the gardens and sound art for limited hours so you can enjoy the freshly updated sights and sounds.

When it comes to public safety, Caramoor is taking precautions seriously. We are working closely with local health experts and officials in developing and implementing plans that incorporate recommended health and safety guidelines. More details will follow in early July.

We wish you and your families strength and comfort during this time. By keeping the music playing, we hope to provide you with musical respite and promise for the future.



*Guests picnicking at Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts (photo credit: Gabe Palacio)*

ARTSWESTCHESTER 2020  
**ARTS AWARD**  
 CELEBRATION  
**Tues., June 30 | 6pm**

## A Not-to-be-Missed Virtual Event

It's time to celebrate the 2020  
Arts Award Winners!

Purchase your *virtual tickets & tables*  
today at: [artsw.org/artsaward2020](http://artsw.org/artsaward2020)

### The 2020 Honorees:



#### The Romita Family of Pelham

*A family's leadership and  
dedication fuels the cultural life  
of the Pelham community.*

**Emily & Eugene Grant  
Arts Patron Award**



#### Pablo Mayor

*An acclaimed jazz musician  
shares his passion for modern  
Colombian music and dance  
with the world.*

**Artist Award**



#### Blue Door Art Center

*A vibrant arts organization  
enlivens the cultural life  
of Yonkers.*

**Arts Organization Award**



#### Ossining Public Library

*This library brings a diverse  
range of arts programming to  
Northern Westchester.*

**Sophia Abeles  
Education Award**



#### City of New Rochelle

*This historic city makes arts  
and culture central to its  
revitalization efforts.*

**Community Award**

A downtown New Rochelle mural by street artist Lula, curated  
by Street Art for Mankind. (photo credit: Ben Lau)



#### A-Chord with Kids

*A group of youth volunteers  
provides music education and  
mentorship to its peers.*

**Education Award**



#### Arnold Kastenbaum

*A talented photographer  
plays with light to transform  
ordinary objects.*

**Lawrence Salley  
Photography Award**

Arnold Kastenbaum, Greenwich Library Elevator, Toned  
Gelatin Silver Print, 16"x20"

Join us on June 30, 6pm at  
[artsw.org/artsaward2020](http://artsw.org/artsaward2020)  
 or live on Facebook or YouTube

**ARTSW**  
ARTSWESTCHESTER

# Give It Up For the Stars!

When asked what makes the Arts Award event special, event Co-Chair Deborah Simon commented: "My husband and I have traveled all over the world and collected many pieces from different cultures, giving us a great appreciation of the enormous talent that exists right here in our own backyard." For more than 40 years, ArtsWestchester's arts awards have celebrated the talent within Westchester's own community and beyond. It has been presented to influential artists and arts

Center. The title sponsor, for the fourth year, will be the Jacob Burns Foundation. On June 30, guests can tune into this year's Virtual Arts Award Celebration at 6pm on ArtsWestchester's website at [artsw.org/artsaward2020](http://artsw.org/artsaward2020), as well as on Facebook and YouTube.

Co-chairing the virtual celebration are two dedicated ArtsWestchester board members and their husbands, Helen and Bill Gates, and Deborah and Alan Simon, who have all given their support

"My husband and I have traveled all over the world and collected many pieces from different cultures, giving us a great appreciation of the enormous talent that exists right here in our own backyard."

groups, from small local musical groups to major players on the world stage, such as Governor Nelson Rockefeller and opera star Roberta Peters.

This year's honorees include the Ossining Public Library because, says ArtsWestchester CEO Janet Langsam, "libraries are increasingly becoming cultural meccas in their communities." Also being honored is the Romita Family, for changing the face of Pelham when they organized the Pelham Arts Center years ago. Honors also go to A-Chord With Kids, musician Pablo Mayor, photographer Arnold Kastenbaum, the City of New Rochelle and Blue Door Art

and encouragement to the presentation of these awards. In the words of Helen Gates: "Today, it is more important than ever to celebrate the arts, and it has been an honor to participate in the process of selecting such deserving winners." Barbara Monohan, chair of the Arts Award Committee, adds: "These are the ones who 'make the arts happen.' The selection process is difficult and the committee spends hours in long thoughtful discussions until we have a constellation of 'arts stars' as winners."

(photos, from top: Barbara Monohan, Alan and Deborah Simon, Bill and Helen Gates)



## spotlight

# Going an Extra Mile for the Frontline Workers

by Mary Alice Franklin, *ArtsNews* Editor



*Staff and volunteers from The Bedford Playhouse at Northern Westchester Hospital (photo courtesy of The Bedford Playhouse)*

Just around the corner from [Hudson River Museum](#) (HRM) in Yonkers is St. Joseph's Hospital. As a close neighbor, the Museum was motivated to help during the current health crisis. So Director and CEO Masha Turchinsky and Assistant Director for Facilities and Operations Todd Jones dropped off the Museum's collection of masks and nitrile gloves to the healthcare workers. These masks and gloves, typically used by staff for art handling and conservation of artworks, proved useful as personal protective equipment greatly needed by medical staff as they tackle COVID-19.

Those at HRM were not the only ones motivated to help. Arts institutions and artists throughout Westchester found ways to give

back to first responders and frontline workers since the health crisis began. [Village Squares Quilters](#) have sewn and donated masks and caps to food pantries, homeless and elderly individuals, essential workers and hospitals. [The White Plains Public Library's](#) sewing machines and fabric are being used by the [Hastings-on-Hudson Mask Project](#) to create masks for Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx, while its two 3D printers were donated to a 3D-printer farm organized by St. John's Riverside Hospital in Yonkers.

Artist **Barbara Segal** has also put her 3D printer to work for the cause. "Right now, our goal is to produce 1,000 mask shields per day," she explained. Segal was using her printer to create miniatures of her

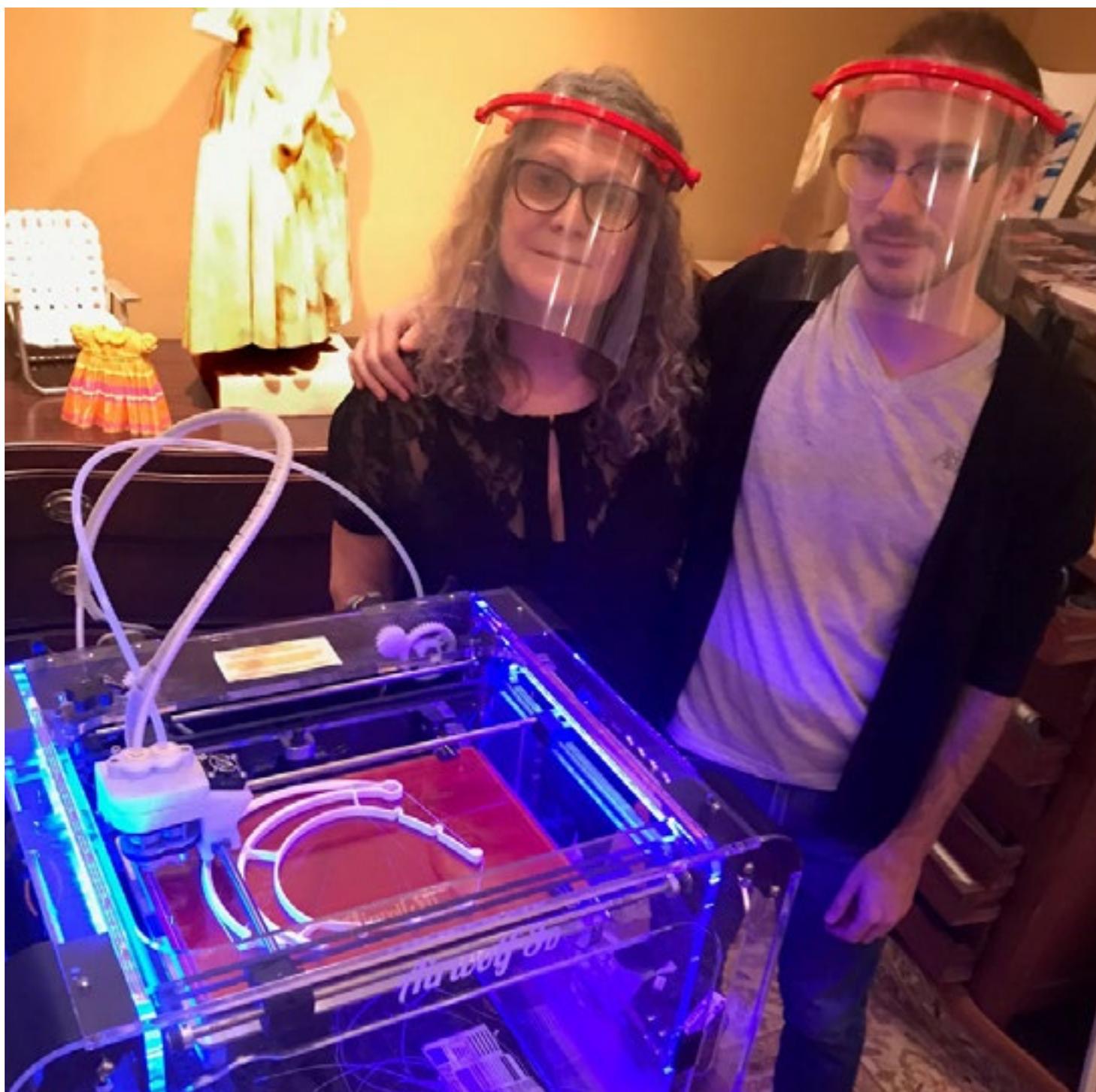
marble artwork. Her son, **David Mack**, a product designer with a background in mechanical engineering, put his skills to good use creating his own model of face shields. Together, they have printed and delivered 700 shields to local facilities, including Westchester Medical Center, St. Joseph's Hospital, Montefiore Hospital and more. Due to their [GoFundMe campaign](#), they show no signs of slowing down. She added: "We want to ramp up production by purchasing more 3D printers and materials."

The arts have also played a role in paying tribute to healthcare workers. The arts provide respite and encouragement to those who have been tirelessly working on the front lines. For instance, Violinist Rosemarie Castellano, board member and long-time volunteer with [Songcatchers](#), serenades medical workers in New Rochelle with uplifting songs from her balcony every evening. [Blue Door Art Center](#) responded to a request by St. Joseph's Hospital for art supplies to be used in a wellness program for medical interns, helping them to de-stress from the pressure they have been under since the outbreak began. [Sanctuary Series](#), [Bridgemusik](#) (Rockland) and videographer [Tim Grajek](#) each created video tributes to essential workers. On Mother's Day, [M&M Performing Arts Company](#), dressed in Victorian garb, handed out gifts at the food pantry at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Verplanck. Staff and volunteers from [The Bedford Playhouse](#)

"One bright spot during these challenging times is witnessing the many ways in which our community is pulling together to help one another. You see it every day in large ways and small gestures."

delivered fresh popcorn to first responders, and provided access to previously-recorded sold-out events. The list goes on.

Says Turchinsky: "One bright spot during these challenging times is witnessing the many ways in which our community is pulling together to help one another. You see it every day in large ways and small gestures."



Barbara Segal and David Mack (photo courtesy of Barbara Segal)

## spotlight

# Arts Soothe the Soul

by Kathleen Reckling, Deputy Director of Public Programs, ArtsWestchester

Stephanie Wolfson is a house plant portraitist. The White Plains printmaker and SUNY Purchase alumna blends the exacting skill of botanical illustration with the tropes of contemporary “millennial” and “Instagram” aesthetics. The result is detailed renderings of popular house plants, like “Stomanthe Triostar” and “Aechmea Susciata,” set against soft pastel-hued backgrounds – calming images of the flora that are associated with domestic space.

Wolfson is one of four Hudson Valley artists whose works are part of *Domestic Bliss*, an exhibition of paintings and artist prints installed in the waiting rooms of Memorial Sloan Kettering Westchester (MSK Westchester), and curated by ArtsWestchester. The exhibition is the eighth installation in an ongoing Arts and



May Day by Julia Whitney Barnes

Healing partnership between the world-renowned cancer-care facility and the arts organization. As we all turn to the safety of our homes during the pandemic era, the views of our backyards and the simple beauty of the light through our windows offer comfort during this period of stress and uncertainty. The works included in this exhibition draw on these familiar scenes to create an atmosphere of warmth and hope.

Those at MSK Westchester know that sometimes the best prescriptions for treating patients includes more than clinical treatments. According to Nancy Diamond, Ambulatory Director at MSK Westchester: “The importance of a therapeutic approach to healing, including the arts, is an important ingredient to a patient’s experience and wellbeing.”

Diamond continues: “By displaying the incredible talents of our community’s artists, our patients appreciate both the beauty and escape from the moment provided by the contemporary artworks on display. With the additional stress and worries that COVID-19 now brings to the world, the paintings and unique prints on view in several of the waiting areas at MSK Westchester serve as a much

“The importance of a therapeutic approach to healing, including the arts, is an important ingredient to a patient’s experience and wellbeing.”



left: *Ceropegia Woodii* by Stephanie Wolfson



Hanazono (flower garden) by Kiyoshi Otsuka

needed escape and healing medicine of its own kind."

#### *Domestic*

*Bliss* is also the title of a series of paintings by Julia Whitney Barnes, selections from which are included in the exhibition. The expressive brushwork and light-flooded interior scenes are warm and inviting, suggesting the promise of long stretches of sunshine on summer days. Barnes is a multi-discipline artist whose work is inspired by architectural design and its history. She recently completed a commission for Arts Brookfield, reinterpreting the stained-glass work of Victorian-era artisan Charles Booth.

Nearby are the exuberant floral paintings of White Plains artist Eileen Stodut, who is an educator and painter with a background in theatrical set design. In her works featured in this exhibition, close-up views of petals fill canvases and straddle the artistic space between representation and pure abstraction. In the lower waiting room, *Hanazono (Flower Garden)*, by Kiyoshi Otsuka mirrors the blooms in the nearby exterior courtyard garden. Otsuka's gestural abstract paintings are inspired by his many years working at the New York Botanical Garden and are informed by traditional Japanese creative practices.

*Domestic Bliss* will be on display at MSK Westchester through early fall.



Victorian by Eileen Stodut

## spotlight

# Artist OPPORTUNITIES

*ArtsW.org is Westchester County's guide for all-things-art. On its "Artist Opportunities" page, artists can find nearby working opportunities that will help to strengthen and further their careers. Below is a sampling of some upcoming opportunities. To get these opportunities sent directly to your mailbox, [sign up here](#).*

## Call for Entries: Hammond Museum's Virtual Exhibition for July

Hammond Museum is accepting submissions from its artist members for works that will be on view in a virtual exhibition on Hammond Museum's website from July 4, 2020 through July 3, 2021 with an Artist Reception via Zoom at 10am on July 4. The show will be curated by Bibiana Huang Matheis.

Submissions should use the painting on the right as its muse or inspiration. All visual media and styles, including 2D, 3D, short film and video, and installation, as well as short literary forms, music and dance, will all be considered.

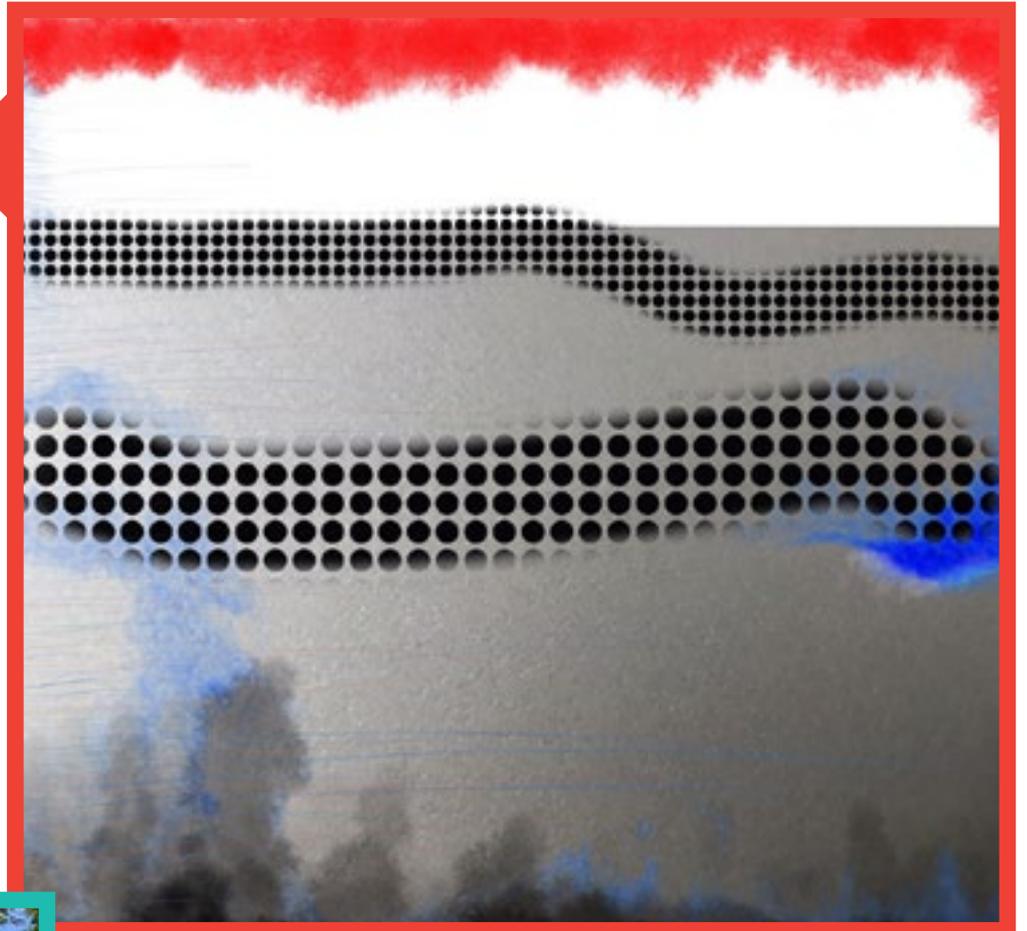
### Submission Deadline: June 15

To submit, you must be a [Hammond Artist Member](#).

Submissions and questions can be emailed to

[HammondMuseumArtists@gmail.com](mailto:HammondMuseumArtists@gmail.com).

Complete Guidelines are available [here](#).



*Artwork courtesy of Hammond Museum*

## A Call for New York-Inspired Small Works

Inside Small seeks submissions of small artworks inspired by New York to be displayed in the Inside Small Online Art Gallery from June 15 through July 14. Thirty artworks of any medium will be selected for this "New York State of Mind Art Event."

Each work should not exceed 10" inches x 10" inches, including frame, mat and base. Chosen selections will also be featured on Instagram and Facebook. The show will be curated by Lisa D'Amico PhD.

### Submission Deadline: June 8

Email your submission and information to

[insidesmall@outlook.com](mailto:insidesmall@outlook.com).



*Esopus by Kayla Sharp (photo courtesy of Inside Small)*

# Applications are Open: **YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

ArtsWestchester, with support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is seeking qualified youth to join its Young Adult Leadership Council, which will take place from October 2020 to May 2021.

This Leadership Council will engage young adults aged 16-21, who will learn career and college readiness skills. Participants will meet twice monthly to plan, evaluate, attend, promote and develop ArtsWestchester's teen programs, including its current Teen Tuesdays & Thursdays program.

The Council will be comprised of 15 youth who can serve on the Council for multiple years for a maximum of three. A \$500 stipend will also be provided.

## **Deadline: July 15**

Applications will be accepted online via [Submittable](#). For more information, email Jessica Cioffoletti at [jcioffoletti@artswestchester.org](mailto:jcioffoletti@artswestchester.org).



## *A Delicate Balancing Act* | *by Regina Farrell-Fagan, Exhibitions & Shop Manager at Clay Art Center*



*(photo courtesy of Regina Farrell-Fagan)*

Recently, I had the privilege of enjoying some of our Clay Art Center artists, who opened up and talked about their processes, their inspirations and their goals. Their art is more than just an item – it's a celebration of life. In these works also lies joy... and during this time, joy is a precious and valuable thing.

As an artist, I understand what not being able to get to the studio means for our artist members and students alike. My own personal artistic journey has become a delicate balancing act in recent years between making my clay work, my job, and being a mom, but

I'm honored that all three of these things bring me joy. Recently, I introduced my five-year-old to Cone 10 porcelain, as I make my own bird sculptures, and his pieces sit proudly next to mine. We visit the Osprey nest nearby and go for walks and bring home pebbles, leaves and other treasures. In a time of suspended life, we need to find happiness in the little things to help us move on.

**To find out about Clay Art Center's virtual activities, classes and online shop, [visit their website here.](#)**

## feature

A bronze sculpture of a male dancer in a handstand position, holding a golden sphere, set against a sunset background over a lake and mountains. The sculpture is perfectly balanced and stands on a two-tiered concrete base. The background features a calm lake, rolling hills, and a sky with soft, golden clouds from a setting or rising sun.

# A Walk Am

Carol Feuerman — *The Golden Mean*

This bronze sculpture of a male dancer creates a silhouette at varied times of the day, a majestic tribute to the beauty of the athlete and a bow to the Greek classical works of the past. Perfectly balanced and stalwart, it stands on Peekskill Riverfront Green as a beacon to human ambition and artistic accomplishment. Visible to travelers on Metro North, the sculpture has quickly become an icon of the waterfront. Though installed as part of Peekskill Project V, an art festival whose installations are often temporary, the work was made affordable for purchase by the city through the efforts of HVMOCA and the generosity of the artist.

# Along the Sculptures...

A favorite socially-distanced activity for many people during the COVID-19 health crisis has been to simply go for a walk. When stuck inside all day, fresh air can revitalize the soul and refresh our moods. In Peekskill, those who are out for a stroll can take in dozens of public artworks along their way. The Hudson Valley Museum of Contemporary Art has outlined these pieces in a public sculpture walk featured on its website. The tour's map pinpoints each sculpture and introduces viewers to the works of art with a description. The two-mile loop is walkable from the town's Metro-North train station and leads participants along the Peekskill waterfront and downtown area. See the following pages for some highlights and visit [hudsonvalleymoca.org](http://hudsonvalleymoca.org) for the full sculpture walk.

Billboard (Waterworks) ●

Croton Expy

Launching Ball ●

N. Water St.

JORWARD ●

Croton Expy

Time Sharing ●

Life: Hudson River Arches ●

The Golden Mean ●

Planetariummonetarium ●

Beyond ●

Jan Peek's Vine ●

ARC ●

Hudson Ave.

Croton Expy

South St.

## feature

Basha Ruth Nelson – *Beyond* ▶

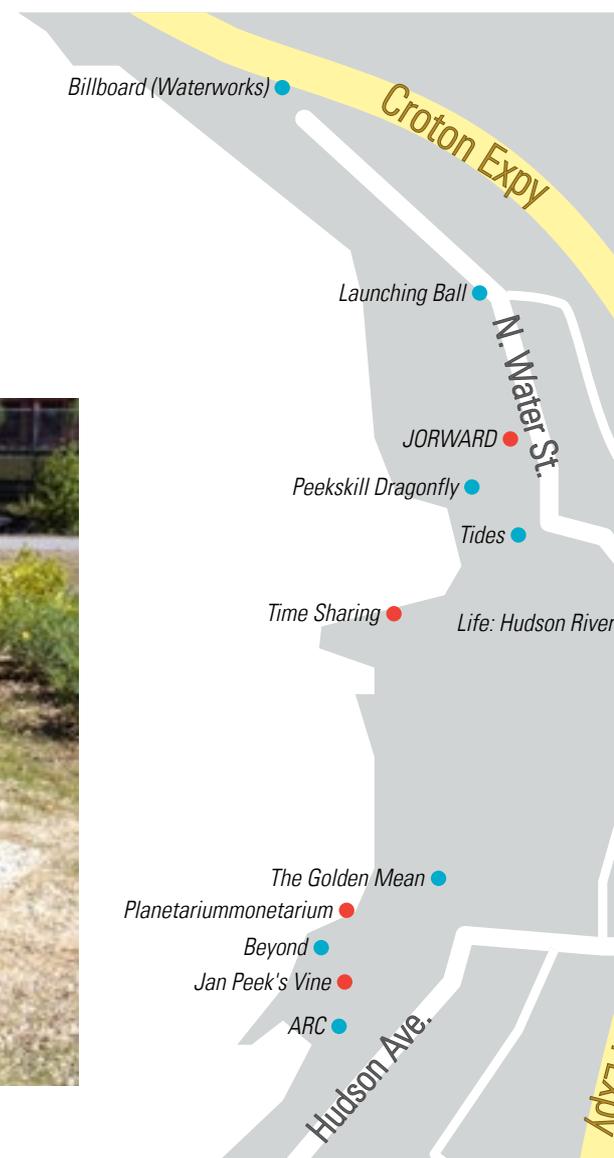
*Beyond* is both an artwork and a frame-for-art. It captures the beautiful scenery of the Hudson River and offers a way to look through it out into the world. Says the artist: "My work...is the creation of unity between form and the volume in which my pieces live. My sculptures...engage the viewer through surface and scale."

▶ Mark Andreas – *Peekskill Dragonfly*

Mark Andreas built *Peekskill Dragonfly* to react to the natural forces in the environment that surrounds it. Every several weeks between spring and fall, the artist fills a basin in the sculpture with water. When the water is added, the sculpture becomes a dynamic cantilever as the sculpture's wings rise. The sculpture is attuned to the environment and is impacted even by the slightest breeze, reminiscent of sailing ships that operate on the Hudson. Over a period of time, the water is pumped out through the force of "capillary action." As the water is released by this force of nature, the wings start to fold down. After the wings are completely folded, the cycle will repeat once the basin is refilled with water. During the winter months, the water is drained and the sculpture stays dormant to protect itself from the freezing temperatures.

Emil Alzamora – *Tides* ▶

*Tides* is a composition of three bronze figures resembling a family – a mother, father and child – who will forever gaze off toward the mighty Hudson River. According to Alzamora: "*Tides* represents the spirit of eternal relaxation and enjoyment of two things that are dear to us – family and loved ones, and communion with the world we live in. Their softened details bring to mind subtle aquatic forms that one might find in the Hudson River on a calm day."



### Job Koelewijn – *Billboard*

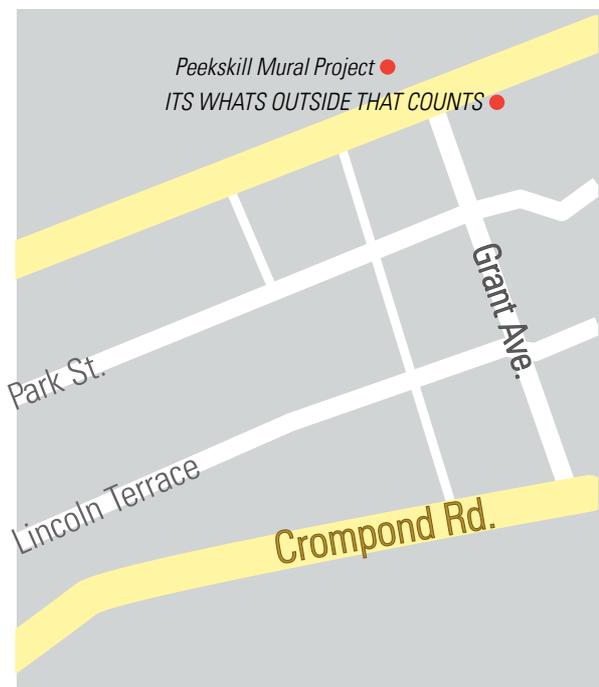
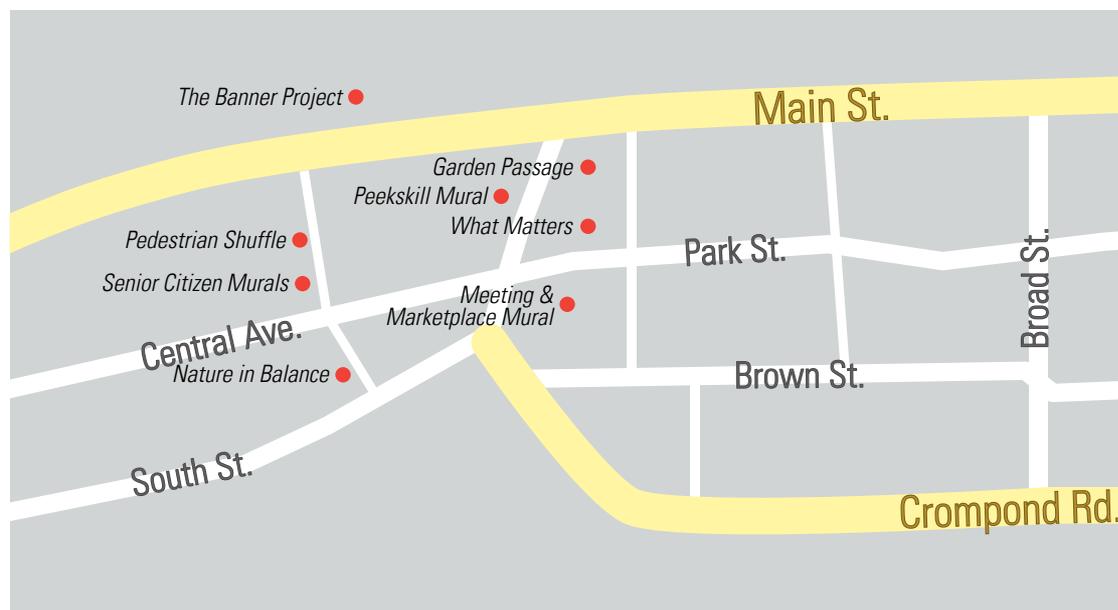
Here, the beauty of the Hudson Valley is framed as one would frame a landscape painting. This highlights what gave birth to the Hudson River School – an appreciation for the awe-inspiring Hudson River and its mountain ranges. The work was conceived as a billboard, framing the Bear Mountain to the north and Peekskill Palisade to the south. Water, pumped from the Hudson River into the base of the sculpture, rises and rains down from the upper bar of the structure, creating a veil of water.



### Jong Oh – *Launching Ball*



Korean artist Jong Oh usually creates minimal sculptures that respond to the given spatial situation. In a sharp departure from these very minimal works, Oh has created this whimsical work that reflects on life along the Hudson River, where noisy recreation and quiet reflection are part of the attraction. The steel base, poised as if ready to fling the striped beach ball into the waves, invites the viewer to imagine the possibilities of this exquisite landscape.



# A Walk Among the Sculptures...

# Tackling a Tangled Web of Legal Issues for Artists



A professional artist's work doesn't just end when their artwork is complete. There's the business end of things, too. Then there are the many legal issues regarding their artwork. Over the past several years, ArtsWestchester has hosted professional development workshops regarding legal issues for artists, which are voluntarily organized by Wilson Elser partner Jana S. Farmer (JF). Speakers at the most recent workshop in March, in addition to Farmer, included Hopkins IP Principal Julie A. Hopkins (JH), and Wilson Elser Associate Andrea Sobolewski (AS), who all volunteered their time to provide legal recommendations to local artists.

For this issue of *ArtsNews*, ArtsWestchester's Executive Assistant, Megan Thomson-Connor, asked all three legal professionals about some art law topics helpful for artists who may not know where to begin.

## **MTC: What is the most common question you hear from artists and how do you answer?**

**JF:** It's less about what artists ask and more about what they do not ask. There are a lot of misconceptions among artists with respect to the topics of copyright, attribution and using someone else's likeness in an artwork. For example, many believe that one artist may use the work of another without a license by simply giving a

byline credit. Usually, this is not the case. The rule of thumb is that it is always better to receive permission in advance, and preferably in writing.

**AS:** I frequently receive questions about whether an artist needs permission from a photographer or other artists in various mediums to create or display a work. I state that it is always best to request permission at the outset rather than wait for the other party to raise an issue down the road.

**JH:** I often get asked "Do I need to register my work with the Copyright Office, since copyright attaches the moment the work is created?" The answer is yes! In order to enforce your rights against an infringer, you need to register the work with the Copyright Office. And, if you register the work prior to an infringement and within three months from first publication, you are eligible for statutory damages, which can be significantly higher than actual damages, and less difficult to prove.

## **MTC: Where is the best place for artists to get the types of information that you provide at seminars, and what other sources would you suggest they follow?**

**JF:** On behalf of Wilson Elser and in partnership with ArtsWestchester, I am planning to continue organizing educational



— (l to r) Andrea Sobolewski, Julie Hopkins, Jana Farmer

seminars for artists on the topics relevant to artists' practice. In addition to universities and pro bono resources recommended by others, the Center for Art Law publishes articles on a wide range of art law-related topics. Wilson Elser's Art Law Perspectives blog is another free resource for artists and art professionals to help keep them abreast of recent legal developments.

**AS:** The College Arts Association and Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts.

**JH:** Also, local law schools often provide free clinical services to individuals, artists and start-up companies.

**MTC: Are there any particular pieces of legislation that artists should look out for as they are subject to change?**

**JF:** The art law field is actively developing. In addition to the statutes mentioned by the others, the Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement (CASE) Act is one piece of legislation to watch. It is expected to come before the U.S. Congress this year and is intended to benefit artists, for whom copyright enforcement litigation is often cost-

prohibitive. This proposed legislation is not without criticism, however.

**AS:** New York's Arts and Cultural Affairs Law is constantly changing. For several years, there was proposed legislation that sought to provide heightened protection to art authenticators, but that has struggled to make it past the New York State Assembly.

**JH:** There is a pending bill introduced in the New York legislature to amend the New York Privacy Law. Amendments include distinguishing between "privacy" and "publicity" and who is eligible under each to make claims. The current law considers celebrities and non-famous people to be the same under the law with the same rights. Right of Publicity (for celebrities) claims would extend to individuals after death, if recorded with the Secretary of State. Further, the rights would be assignable and transferable to third parties. Currently the rights extinguish at death and are not assignable or transferable.

**MTC: If you could give one general recommendation to an artist, what would it be?**

**JF:** The legal issues that artists face typically center around copyright, sometimes trademarks, rights of privacy/rights of publicity (related to the use of the name or likeness of a person) in addition to agreements with dealers, publishers, printers, etc. To avoid common misconceptions, it is a good idea to pick up a book on these topics so that the artist would at least be aware of potential issues.

**AS:** Always be sure to have a written agreement with any party with whom you are working, and if you are ever unsure about what to include in that agreement, it makes sense to speak with a lawyer.

**JH:** Be proactive in protecting yourself legally. Protect your work – register copyrights, have agreements in place to secure your rights and to ensure that you are not running afoul of the rights of others.

“Local law schools often provide free clinical services to individuals, artists and start-up companies.”

– Julie Hopkins

*The responses provided here are for informational purposes only and are general in nature; they are not intended to and do not constitute legal advice. Moreover, the responses are not intended to and do not constitute a solicitation for the formation of an attorney-client relationship.*

## spotlight

INTRODUCING...

# SEWING STORIES

AN ARTSWESTCHESTER PODCAST

*ArtsWestchester's large-scale fabric installation with artist Amanda Browder was put on hold due to COVID-19. Beginning June 10, a new podcast, "Sewing Stories," will tell the stories of individuals who have been involved in the work's creation. Below is an excerpt from the podcast's first episode:*

"My name is Barbara Glab. I was born in Poland and at age twenty-four, I came to the United States... Everybody in Poland had a [sewing] machine. After World War II, there were not that many stores and places to buy things, so people were buying fabric and making clothes for themselves. Almost every resident had a machine...I learned before I even went to school. But in school, it was just learning crochet, things like that, but not sewing, because you couldn't bring a machine. We didn't have those portable ones; we had machines attached to tables. But I was born with it...that craft. I like my quilts to be used, even though I put them all over my walls. Because I enjoy looking at them. It's funny – I go from kitchen to dining room, and I say 'Oh my God, beautiful.' I go to the living room and I say 'How nice!' You have to surround yourself with things that your eyes like. And you are happy. You are getting up and you are looking at things that you like and you are a happy person, first thing in the morning.

I used to work for a civil engineering company. It started that I used to make drawings in ink. I liked that work so much. Computers just started, so everything was made by ink. I couldn't wait for the morning to come, to go to work. But when I got older, after 20 years working with that company, later it was computers nonstop. No hand drafting. My eyes were getting more tired and more tired. So I said I have to quit, I have to quit. At that time, I couldn't wait to get home to my sewing machine. And now, when I retired, I go to sleep and I am angry that it is dark and I cannot sew. Really! I am upset! And I say, God, let the morning come quick so I can go to my sewing machine.' I think I am nuts!"

**To listen to this and other podcast episodes, visit [ArtsWestchester's YouTube Channel](#).**



Barbara Glab (photo credit: Aaron Paige)

"You have to surround yourself with things that your eyes like...You are getting up and you are looking at things that you like and you are a happy person, first thing in the morning."

# Artists are the *Heart* of Every Community

Artists are at the heart of every community. The problem these days is that those communities have, for the time being, been put on hold. Like many others, artists are feeling the devastating effects of COVID-19. In fact, according to a survey by the U.S. Census Bureau, two-thirds of the nation's artists are now unemployed.

Luckily, several artists from Westchester were recently "granted" a small relief. They were the first recipients of funds from ArtsWestchester's Artist Relief Fund. The GoFundMe campaign organized by ArtsWestchester offers new grants to Westchester artists whose livelihoods have been adversely affected by the current pandemic. Recipients in this first round of grants are mixed-media artist Rukhshan Haque (Yonkers), photographer Margaret Fox (Sleepy Hollow), jazz pianist Hiroshi Yamazaki (Tarrytown), ceramic artist and teacher Logan Wall

(White Plains), musician and dancer Gina Bergamini (Mt. Kisco), contemporary dancer Sidra Bell (White Plains), painter Jacqueline Meier (Mamaroneck) and photographer Hubert Williams (Mt. Vernon).

ArtsWestchester will continue collecting donations indefinitely and distributing funds to artists on a first-come, first-serve basis. As more funds – every \$500, to be exact – are donated to the Artist Relief Fund, new grants will be awarded to artists whose gigs have been canceled, whose residencies have been postponed due to school closures, and whose dance shoes have had to be packed away. Similar cancellations have taken place across the country. Nationally, the nonprofit arts industry has seen a loss of \$5.5 billion as of mid-May. To read more about, or contribute to the Artist Relief Fund, [click here](#).

## Thanks to you... our Artist Relief Fund

has raised more than **\$11,080** for emergency grants to artists adversely affected by COVID-19!

### Help an Artist Today.

*The number of artists we can support is directly dependent on how much funding is raised. So, please consider a gift today.*

**Donate Today**

**ARTSW**  
ARTSWESTCHESTER



## virtual activities



Hope For the World by Millie Arroyo, on view in Clay Art Center's online exhibition Connections

**Arc Stages** presents online adult and kid's classes, live-streamed concerts, open mic night sessions and more. [arcstages.org/connects](https://arcstages.org/connects)

- Shaping the Monologue Virtual Adult Class: June 2 at 7pm

**ARTS 10566** provides fun and enriching instructional lesson-based activities through its interactive platform available for students, parents and the community. New classes are posted every Monday at 3pm. To learn more, [click here](#).

**ArtsWestchester** is providing weekly social media activities, such as Art of the Week assignments every Monday on Instagram, virtual **ArtsMobile activities for kids**, **Teen Tuesdays & Thursday programs** on YouTube, and more. [instagram.com/artswestchester](https://instagram.com/artswestchester) and [youtube.com/user/ArtsWestchester](https://youtube.com/user/ArtsWestchester)

- **Lawrence Salley Photography Award Virtual Exhibition:** On view now
- **Virtual Arts Award Luncheon 2020:** June 30 at 6pm

**Bedford Playhouse's** "Culture at Home" brings a selection of interactive programs, from comedies to environmental documentaries, author talks, weekly trivia for kids and more. For a full list of current programs, [click here](#) and visit [facebook.com/bedfordplayhouse](https://facebook.com/bedfordplayhouse) and [instagram.com/bedfordplayhouse](https://instagram.com/bedfordplayhouse).

- **The Big Goodbye with author Sam Wasson:** June 1 at 7:30pm
- **The Commitments** Screening and Discussion: June 10, 7:30pm

**Blue Door Art Center's** **Shattered: Glassworks** exhibition is available online. The center will also host a series of **free art workshops for kids and writing workshops for adults** on Saturdays via Zoom.

**Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts** offers a variety of music: jazz opera, classical and family programs. Audiences can enjoy past performances by world renowned artists on [youtube.com/c/caramoor](https://youtube.com/c/caramoor).

[Center for the Digital Arts, Peekskill](#) will host all summer classes online and via remote learning. [Click here to register for summer classes.](#)

[Clay Art Center](#) presents virtual classes for adults and kids, as well as artist lectures and demos. The Center's [Connections](#), a virtual exhibition of postcards that document ceramic artists' experiences during this time of social distancing, will be on view through July 15.

[Copland House](#) is posting videos of past performances with its "Coping ...with Copland House" series. [coplandhouse.org/coping](http://coplandhouse.org/coping)

[Downtown Music](#) has been posting video excerpts from past concerts each Wednesday on their Facebook page. [facebook.com/dtmusicgrace](https://facebook.com/dtmusicgrace)

[Emelin Theatre's](#) Virtual Screen Room streams the best in independent, international and documentary film for the price of a movie ticket. For the complete list of offerings, [click here](#). More streaming available on [Facebook](#).

[Hammond Museum](#) presents an [Artist Members Virtual Gallery](#), featuring the works of the museum's members from June 6 through June 5, 2021. For a complete list of programs and workshops, visit [hammondmuseum.org](http://hammondmuseum.org).

- Virtual Artist Reception: June 6 at 10am on Zoom

[Harrison Public Library](#) is offering suggestions on its website for what to read, watch, listen to and learn, as well as [virtual workshops](#) for teens and adults via Zoom, online book clubs, yoga classes for adults and more. For a complete list of programs, virtual classes and workshops, visit [harrisonpl.org/events/harrison](http://harrisonpl.org/events/harrison)

[Historic Hudson Valley](#) offers digital content on its website, including home craft videos like tinsmithing. Also available is *People Not Property*, an interactive documentary about the history of Northern colonial enslavement through the personal stories of enslaved people. [hudsonvalley.org/article/history-at-your-fingertips/](http://hudsonvalley.org/article/history-at-your-fingertips/)

[Hudson Valley Museum of Contemporary Art's](#) interactive digital tours will educate viewers about several highlighted exhibitions. Virtual tours of the exhibitions, [How We Live](#) and [.edu: Art Faculty of the Hudson Valley](#), and an in-depth [Sculpture walk](#) are available on the Museum's website.

[Hudson Valley Writers Center](#) will present free readings throughout the month, and a special offer on their own chapbooks. There are a series of classes and readings, all online and ready for immediate



Harrison Public Library will present a Tape Birds workshop on June 10 for kids aged 8 and older. (photo source: harrisonpl.org)

LET'S GET BACK TO PLAYING...

ARTSWESTCHESTER  
RALPH MARTINELLI MEMORIAL  
GOLF OUTING  
TUESDAY, SEPT. 22, 2020

Wykagyl Country Club, New Rochelle

HONORING:  
Andrew Benerofe & Andrew Greenspan

ARTSW  
ARTSWESTCHESTER

FOURSOMES, HOLES AND TEE SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!

For more information contact Ann Fabrizio:  
[afabrizio@artswestchester.org](mailto:afabrizio@artswestchester.org) or call 914.428.4220

[artsw.org/golf](http://artsw.org/golf)

## virtual activities



Mannish Boy, 2018  
 Cotton, chiffon, satin lace and silk  
 54 x 39 in. (137.2 x 99 cm)  
 Courtesy of the Byron Nelson Family Collection  
 On view online in Katonah Museum of Art's Bisa Butler: Portraits exhibition

registration. For a complete list of virtual classes, workshops and online readings, visit [writerscenter.org](http://writerscenter.org).

[Jacob Burns Film Center](http://jacobburnsfilmcenter.org) is highlighting staff-chosen films, as well as its "Viewing and Doing" series, which provides short films with related activities. [education.burnsfilmcenter.org/education/blog](http://education.burnsfilmcenter.org/education/blog)

[Jazz Forum Arts](http://jazzforumarts.org) has launched Jazz Forum @ Home, a series of concerts live-streamed on Facebook Live every Saturday at 7pm, and [Jitterbugs @ Home](http://jitterbugsathome.org), an online jazz program for kids aged 2-7 on June 14 at 10:30am. [facebook.com/jazzforumclub](https://facebook.com/jazzforumclub)

[John Jay Homestead](http://johnjayhomestead.org) offers interactive activities, such as children's projects, a virtual tour and downloadable worksheets on its website. [johnjayhomestead.org](http://johnjayhomestead.org)

[Katonah Museum of Art](http://katonahmuseum.org) offers a slideshow and virtual tours of its upcoming rescheduled [Bisa Butler](http://bisa-butler.org) exhibition, as well as [downloadable kids activities](http://downloadablekidsactivities.org) that introduce audiences to the artist's quilted portraits. [katonahmuseum.org](http://katonahmuseum.org)

- [Behind the Scenes: Bisa Butler](http://behindthescenes.org) June 7, 1pm

[Lagond Music School](http://lagondmusic.com) will offer a virtual kids open mic on June 6 at 4pm, live student performances during Lagond's Got Talent event on June 13 at 7pm and a virtual summer music camp for students in grades 2-12 held June 15 through August 28.

[Lyndhurst](http://lyndhurst.org) presents virtual tours of the mansion and its Bowling Alley, as well as a virtual aerial tour of the site. [lyndhurst.org/about/virtual-tours/](http://lyndhurst.org/about/virtual-tours/)

[Mamaroneck Artists Guild](http://mamaroneckartistsguild.org) is using Facebook to highlight the artworks of its member artists. [facebook.com/MAG.Larchmont](https://facebook.com/MAG.Larchmont)

[M&M Performing Arts Company](#) and the Red Monkey Theater Group will present virtual readings of [The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes on YouTube](#).

[Music Conservatory of Westchester](#)'s registration is open for private online video lessons. [musicconservatory.org/virtual-lessons](#)

[Neuberger Museum of Art](#) provides pre-recorded [20-minute guided meditations](#) on its website, as well as [virtual curator-led exhibition](#) tours on Zoom and [weekly art-related projects and activities for kids](#). [purchase.edu/neuberger-museum-of-art](#)

- [Art Sandwiched-In](#): A Virtual Curator-led Exhibition Tour: June 5 at 12:30pm

[New Rochelle Council on the Arts](#) will present [See Me!](#), an exhibition that celebrates LGBTQ Pride Month and features the aesthetic sensibility of the queer community and its continuing struggle for freedom and equality. The show will be available on the [Council's YouTube channel](#) from June 1-30.

[Oak & Oil](#) presents [Spring is in the Air](#), a virtual exhibit of contemporary florals by Cynthia Mullins. [oakandoil.com](#)

[Off Center Dance Theatre](#) is offering a weekly schedule of live dance classes through Zoom and are available on YouTube. [dancecavise.com/video-classes-online/](#)

[Ossining Public Library](#)'s Virtual Mother Goose Time will take place every Thursday at 10am on [Facebook](#), and other resources while we are all [Stuck at Home](#).

[Pelham Art Center](#) is hosting a series of virtual studio visits and works. Look for additional online events on the Center's [event page](#) and [Facebook page](#).



Floral Painting by Cynthia Mullins, on view in Oak & Oil's virtual exhibition, Spring is in the Air (photo courtesy of Oak & Oil)

[Pelham Picture House](#) is presenting short films, each with discussion questions and activities that can be adapted into teaching tools for students of any grade level. [instagram.com/the\\_picturehouse](#).

[The Ground Glass](#) will present [The Decisive Moment Revisited](#), a virtual photography exhibit inspired by the works of famous photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson. The exhibit will be on view on The Ground Glass website. [thegroundglass.org](#)

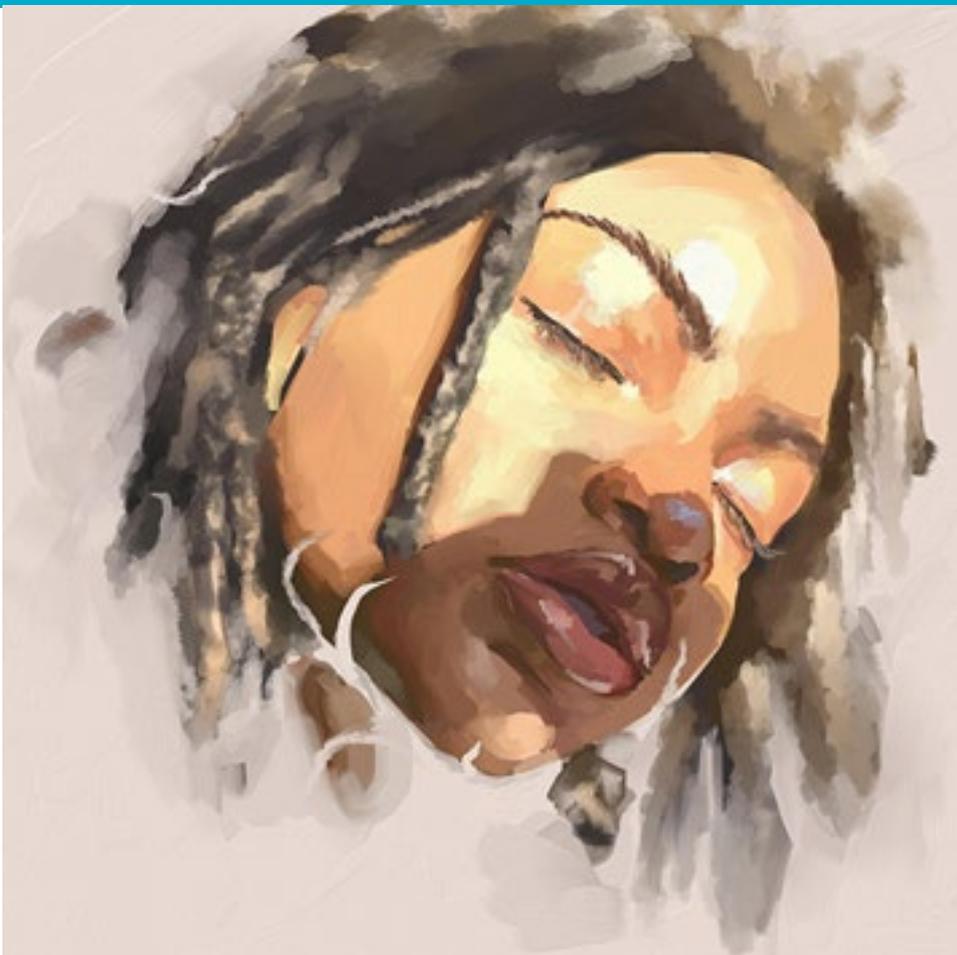
[The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College](#)'s online offerings include a range of live, recorded and curated events, education and entertainment. [Click here](#) to learn about [The PAC in Your Living Room initiative](#).

[Play Group Theater](#) launched PGTonline which allows audiences to enroll for virtual classes, and the PGT Project 24 via Zoom. To learn more visit: [playgroup.org/online/](#)

[Rehabilitation Through The Art \(RTA\)](#) offers screenings of two documentaries: [Amazing Grace](#), a film about RTA's original performance at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, and [Dramatic](#)



## virtual activities



Violet by Devon Smillie, on view in Blue Door Art Center's ongoing online exhibition, Faces

**Escape**, which follows the entire arc of RTA mounting Aaron Sorkin's play *A Few Good Men*.

**RiverArts** presents **#100DaysOfStudioTour**, an online showcase of the Rivertowns artists who were supposed to exhibit at this year's Studio Tour, via its **Facebook** and Instagram pages. Virtual music and dance classes are also available.

- [Monica Shulman Virtual Studio Tour](#)
- [Six-Pack Music Lessons](#)
- [Virtual Dance Lessons with Mary Ford-Sussman](#)

**Ruth Keeler Memorial Library** highlights its digital collection, including e-books, audio books, music and streaming movies, TV for anyone with their library card. [westchesterlibraries.org/listen-read](http://westchesterlibraries.org/listen-read)

**Rye Arts Center** is offering a series of **online classes** and **workshops** for children and adults, as well as other weekly offerings on its **Facebook page**.

- [Virtual Critique Group With Jill Parry](#): June 19 at 11am

**Steffi Nossen Dance** has been posting virtual classes recorded in the homes of some of its dance teachers. [instagram.com/steffinossendance](https://www.instagram.com/steffinossendance)

**Tarrytown Music Hall** has launched a series of free one-hour **online workshops for kids** and a new livestream concert and event series "Night-In With The Music Hall," which will take place on **Facebook Live** every Wednesday at 6pm. [tarrytownmusichall.org/academy](http://tarrytownmusichall.org/academy)

- Morning Story Time for parents and Pre-K, K and 1st grade kids: Mondays at 10-10:30am.

**Westchester Children's Museum** has created WCM at Home, a page on their website with creative and fun projects for families to do at home. For more information, [click here](#).

**Westchester Choral Society** is hosting virtual rehearsals via Zoom through June 9. The choir will be working on two pieces: Joseph Haydn's *Missa Brevis Sancti Joannis De Deo* and Brahms' *Geistliches Lied*.

**Westchester Chordsmen** has shared a YouTube video of its performance, *Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor*, which features excerpts of a poem by Emma Lazarus with music by the Chordsmen's Music Director Keith Harris. [Click here](#) to listen.

**Westchester Italian Cultural Center** presents **live-streamed webinars**, featuring lectures, concerts and demonstrations.

- [Love That Moves the Sun: Discovering the Life of Vittoria Colonna](#): June 1 at 2pm
- [Live Concert from Italy: Cristiana Pegoraro](#): June 11 at 6pm & June 20 at 1pm

**White Plains Public Library** has built a "**Stuck at Home**" web page, which includes resources chosen by Josh Carlson, Manager of Youth Services. [whiteplainslibrary.org/2020/03/stuck-at-home-staff-picks](http://whiteplainslibrary.org/2020/03/stuck-at-home-staff-picks)

**YoFi Digital Media Center Friday Film Series** presents an evening of independent film and conversation every Friday. For info on upcoming screenings, visit [yofidmac.com](http://yofidmac.com)

### Interested in Writing for ArtsNews? We want to hear from you!

To be considered, tell us about your interest/experience in the arts, and include a writing resume and three writing clips. When we have an article to assign, we may get in touch!

Contact [artswnews@artswestchester.org](mailto:artswnews@artswestchester.org). No phone calls, please.



*Westchester Italian Center presents a livestream concert with Cristiana Pegoraro on June 11 (photo source: cristianapegoraro.com)*

## ARTSWESTCHESTER NEWS BRIEFS

### **ArtsWestchester CEO to be Awarded by Americans for the Arts**

Americans for the Arts (AFTA) will honor ArtsWestchester's CEO, Janet T. Langsam, with its 2020 Selina Roberts Ottum Leadership Award. This award has been presented jointly with National Endowment for the Arts for the past 30 years. It recognizes "an individual working in arts management who has made a meaningful contribution to his or her local community and who exemplifies extraordinary leadership qualities." The 2020 Leadership Awards will be celebrated during a national virtual event.

### **ArtsWestchester's Director of Public Programs Recognized by Business Council of Westchester**

ArtsWestchester's Deputy Director of Public Programs, Kathleen Reckling, has been recognized among The Business Council of Westchester's "Rising Stars: 40 Under 40" awardees for 2020. The 40 Westchester individuals represent a diverse mix of professionals from a cross-section of organizations and industries who were chosen based on "professional and/or entrepreneurial accomplishments, professional and/or business affiliations, and demonstrated leadership skills." The winners will be honored on September 2 at a location to be announced.



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## spotlight

# Here Comes the ArtsMobile



Once social distancing became the norm, ArtsWestchester took its ArtsMobile and Teen Tuesdays & Thursdays offerings to a new level—virtual. Recognizing that these programs could no longer function in person, they reached out to its roster of teaching artists, who stepped up to the challenge. Before long, both programs went digital, each offering one new art-making workshop every week, all of which are made public for anyone interested in participating.

These virtual workshops use mostly household or recycled items for supplies. The featured crafts and activities don't require special materials. Some don't require any at all, like Marion Jones-Archer's African drum and dance lesson. Additional ArtsMobile workshops include folk songs for the family, paper crafts commonly made in Mexico, and more. These workshops, made possible with support from Con Edison and White Plains Hospital, [are uploaded every Wednesday](#).

Teen Tuesdays & Thursdays programs engage students aged 12-17 years old while using minimal supplies. For instance, Dhanashree Gadiyar leads students through an Indian folk art drawing exercise in which instant coffee is used instead of ink. Other workshop topics include collage selfies and symmetrical drawing. While schools are closed, these activities provide meaningful literary, performing and visual art workshops led by professional teaching artists. New Teen Tuesdays & Thursdays workshops [are uploaded each Tuesday](#).



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# Rhythm: Hardwired Into Our DNA

For many of us, our entire world has been flipped upside down. Our homes are no longer just homes: dining rooms are now classrooms, bedrooms are offices and kitchens function as if they are full-time restaurants. On top of that, we've been forced to seek new avenues to serve students, families and communities. While the practice of social distancing prevents exposure to COVID-19, it has also had a negative impact on the social and emotional wellbeing of mental health recipients – but drummer Ronnie Negro is working to combat isolation and keep these recipients' spirits up.

Recognizing that drumming is a therapeutic art form for this population, ArtsWestchester and Negro teamed up to offer a highly-structured multi-session workshop series. With support from Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health, the workshops introduce various drumming techniques, such as rhythm and tempo, to participants at local mental health facilities. Negro explains: "Rhythm is hardwired into our DNA. The first sounds babies hear are their mother's heartbeat from inside her womb. Later, they react to music instinctively... Plus, we can utilize our laps, tabletops or clapping to form a rhythm, so it doesn't require an expensive investment." Negro has been a performing drummer since the late 1980s, performing on Broadway and with his band Powderfinger, and has been one of ArtsWestchester's [teaching artists](#) since 2011.

**The participants can learn to appreciate music on a deeper level, even if they have had no prior musical training. Through the physical performance of rhythm, they develop focus, as well as fine motor skills. The mathematical elements of rhythm also foster problem solving and analytical skills."**

Negro's classes strengthen cognitive skills like hand-eye coordination, memory and pattern recognition, in addition to promoting self-expression and healing. He continues: "The participants can learn to appreciate music on a deeper level, even if they have had no prior musical training. Through the physical performance of rhythm, they develop focus, as well as fine motor skills. The mathematical elements of rhythm also foster problem solving and analytical skills."

The recreational drumming workshops are part of ArtsWestchester's artist residency program, which pairs teaching artists with schools and community sites in order to integrate the arts into active curricula. Normally, these services are provided in-person, but given the circumstances surrounding the outbreak of COVID-19, they are now being offered virtually. All of the lessons are prerecorded and taught in sequential order, allowing anyone to pause and repeat a unit if desired. No materials are required to participate in Negro's workshops from the comfort of home. "Everyone is feeling some sense of isolation during these times, but those suffering from mental disabilities are even more affected... Any sense of normal life is welcome, and this video series is another way of telling the participants that they are not forgotten."



Ronnie Negro (photo courtesy of Ronnie Negro)

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## spotlight



## THE BENEFITS AND PERILS OF VIDEO:

### Helpful Hints for Acoustic Musicians

In his "Frank's Picks" column, music journalist, author and radio producer Frank Matheis typically recommends upcoming events. This month, he provides some sound advice to artists and musicians. [artsw.org/frankpicks](http://artsw.org/frankpicks)

Musicians are increasingly self-producing videos of themselves performing, especially during the pandemic lockdown. Some are even offering 'from-home' solo performances for donations as a way of making it through this economically perilous time while gigs have dried up. Self-producing is now a primary way the video medium is being used, as most everybody has a phone camera.

Imagine that you went to an expensive professional photo shoot for your promotion photos and instead of setting the camera straight on, your photographer crouches on the floor and captures your image upwards from below. You wouldn't have to be a promotional genius to realize that the upward perspective is abnormal. Nobody looks good from below, and no viewer wants to look up your nostrils. Yet, the most common mistake musicians make is to set the video camera beneath them, aimed up at themselves. For almost all people, that's the most unflattering perspective, making people look heavier than they are. The second most common mistake is they set their video camera vertically, in portrait orientation. If you are holding a guitar, that will cut off sections of the instrument. Whatever you do, remember that you are in the image business. Make sure that you look sharp, play well and that your video recording does you justice.

#### Here are some simple and basic guidelines on how to self-produce your own video reasonably well:

1. Set your camera or phone camera so that you are looking at it at eye level when seated. There are phone tripods available for about \$25 that allow you to position the camera effectively. If not, rig something up. Whatever you do, don't videotape yourself from below.
2. Position the phone or camera in landscape (horizontal) position, so that we can see you and the entire guitar, banjo or whatever, left to right.
3. Place the camera back far enough from you so that no part of your upper torso, hands or instrument is cut-off.
4. Lighting is everything. Avoid sitting in front of windows. Find a spot where there is no bright natural light behind you, as this will silhouette you and saturate light around you. If that can't be done, close the blinds. Play with whatever lamps or light sources you have in the house to illuminate yourself so that you

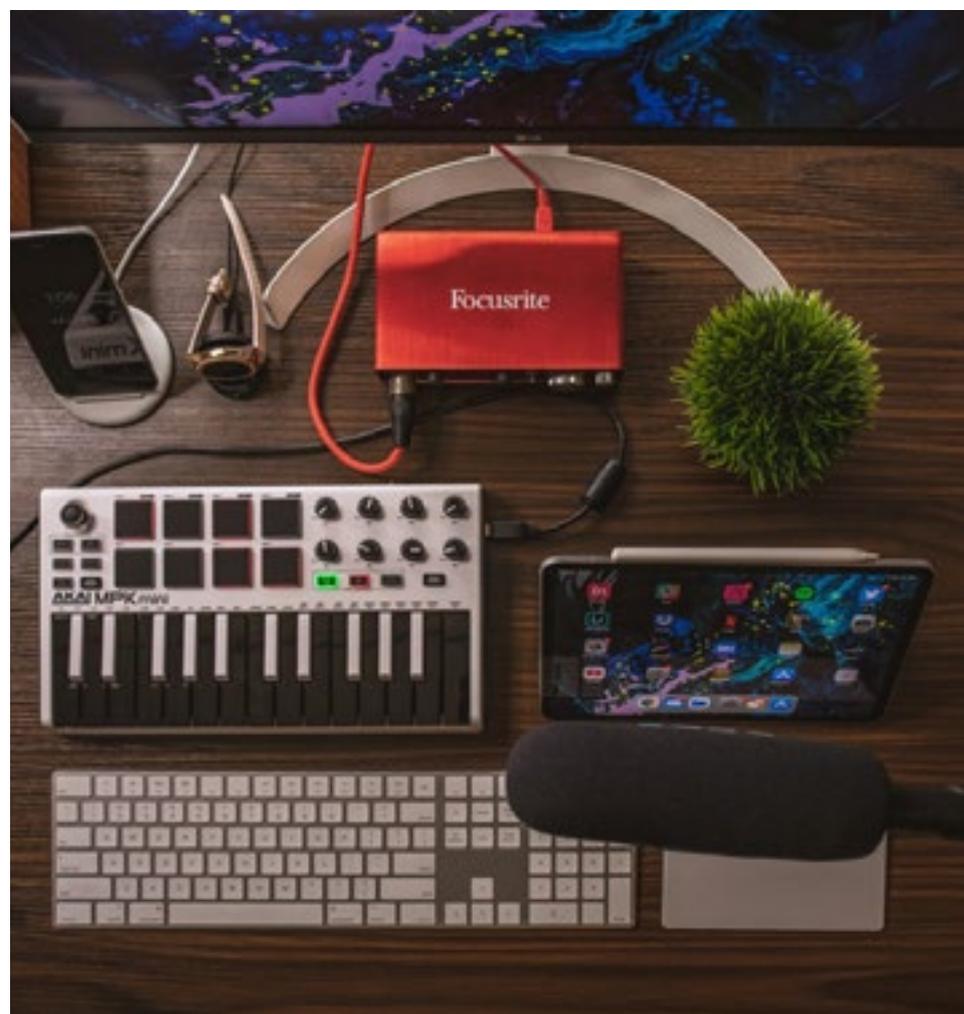


photo credit: Joshua Oluwagbemiga (Detail)

are in balanced light. Not too bright, not too dark. Be careful of shadows. Good lighting can make you look young. Bad lighting can do the opposite.

5. Do a few test runs. Look at everything critically. Which lighting position is best?
6. Identify yourself and speak to your audience in a friendly, conversational tone. Tell them the song title, the songwriter and where you are located. People like to have a context for the "who, what and where" they are watching. That way, if the video is seen years from now, people don't have to guess.
7. People like it when they feel like you are speaking to them, but don't talk too much. I've seen otherwise good videos killed by boring, unnecessary monologues.
8. Go easy on jokes. It's okay to be lighthearted, but don't try to be a comedian when you are not.

[Also: Read Frank's tips on how to navigate videos of your gigs and concerts that have been uploaded online by others](#)



## MARSHA ON THE MOVE

### Monthly Web Feature

When Business Council of Westchester President Marsha Gordon, is not advocating for businesses in the County, she can be found at the cinema or theater. Read Marsha's reviews on ArtsWestchester's "As a Matter of Art" blog: [artsw.org/artsblog](http://artsw.org/artsblog).

#### **Little Fires Everywhere (Hulu)**

*Little Fires Everywhere* is a terrific book by Celeste Ng, and a great TV miniseries starting Kerry Washington and Reese Witherspoon. A complicated web of social and family relationships weaves through issues of social and racial justice, the meaning of motherhood, control, identity and growing up. If you want thought-provoking, this is it; but it's also good entertainment, great acting and has you wanting to find out who set those "little fires"... figuratively and literally.

#### **Miracle in Cell No. 7 (Netflix)**

This is a poignant, heart-rending film. A father's love, unlike any other in its innocence and purity, is returned by a young daughter who accepts her papa with all his challenges. It also portrays a society that is unlawful and cruel but within it has kindness and justice. This was beautifully acted. There was also gorgeous scenery and music in this 2019 Turkish remake of a 2013 South Korean film. It was sad, and tough to get through, but was worth it to stay to the end.

#### **The Durrells in Corfu (Amazon Prime)**

In every way, this is a gorgeous series. The Durrell family's warmth, humor, guts, loves and losses are shared over four delightful seasons. The show is filled with splendid scenery, wonderful animals, and a community that shows the essence of Greek culture. A strong matriarch guides the home... and I grew to love her and her "peculiar" (yet so lovable) children, who grow up before your eyes.



Promotional still for *Little Fires Everywhere* (photo courtesy of Hulu)

I'm excited to announce the introduction of our **Examiner – COVID-19 Local News Fund**. You can make **TAX-DEDUCTIBLE**, charitable donations to our cause. We've partnered with a wonderful nonprofit, the **Local Media Foundation**, a Section 501(c)(3) organization, to allow you the opportunity to support our mission while also receiving the **TAX BENEFIT** of contributing to a charity.

-Adam Stone  
Publisher

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Photo credit: Mercedes Alvarez

# Gotta love the arts!

Visit [artsw.org](http://artsw.org) for our **Top 5 Virtual Arts Picks** during this difficult time.

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