

# ARTS NEWS

MAY 2020

Alan Haywood, Roy Hargrove (detail), Photograph, 20"x24"

## Photography is a special medium, as is music...

*In This Issue: Read about photography (page A4), streaming music (A30) and more.*

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Thank you for taking a few moments to read this May 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 arts group 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

.....

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

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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)

## A Dream On Hold

We at ArtsWestchester have launched a campaign to raise funds for a sector of our community that has suffered hardships during this pandemic — our artists. Think about the individual artist, one who may be ready to sing at a local theater. She has hired the back-up, reserved the date, rehearsed the melodies, spent some hard-earned cash on arrangements, and poof... the show can't go on...there's a pandemic going on instead in Westchester. Restaurants and theaters are shut tight and a young

Today's many artists, painters, actors, and playwrights are putting their dreams on hold due to cancellations of exhibitions and performances."

singer, and many like her, must put her dream on hold. Putting a dream on hold is a painful reality in this crisis that impacts us all.

Today's many artists, painters, actors and playwrights are putting their dreams on hold due to cancellations of exhibitions and performances. They have struggled endlessly over the years to present their work to the public...but these events may never come to pass. For many artists, putting a dream on hold means putting a life on hold. We can give that singer a small grant to compensate her for what she has already spent. But how can we make up for the dream on hold? It's not only about money. A \$500 grant in recognition of her losses is helpful, but more important is a recognition of the loss of a dream yet to come. A small gift to say "Here's the applause you may have missed. Let this grant sustain your dream until we all can gather once again to hear your song, see your painting, watch your play." Let us keep our creative community together and ready for the next show.

**See page A32 for more about this campaign.**



*Alexis Cole performing at Morton's the Steakhouse during JazzFest White Plains 2018*

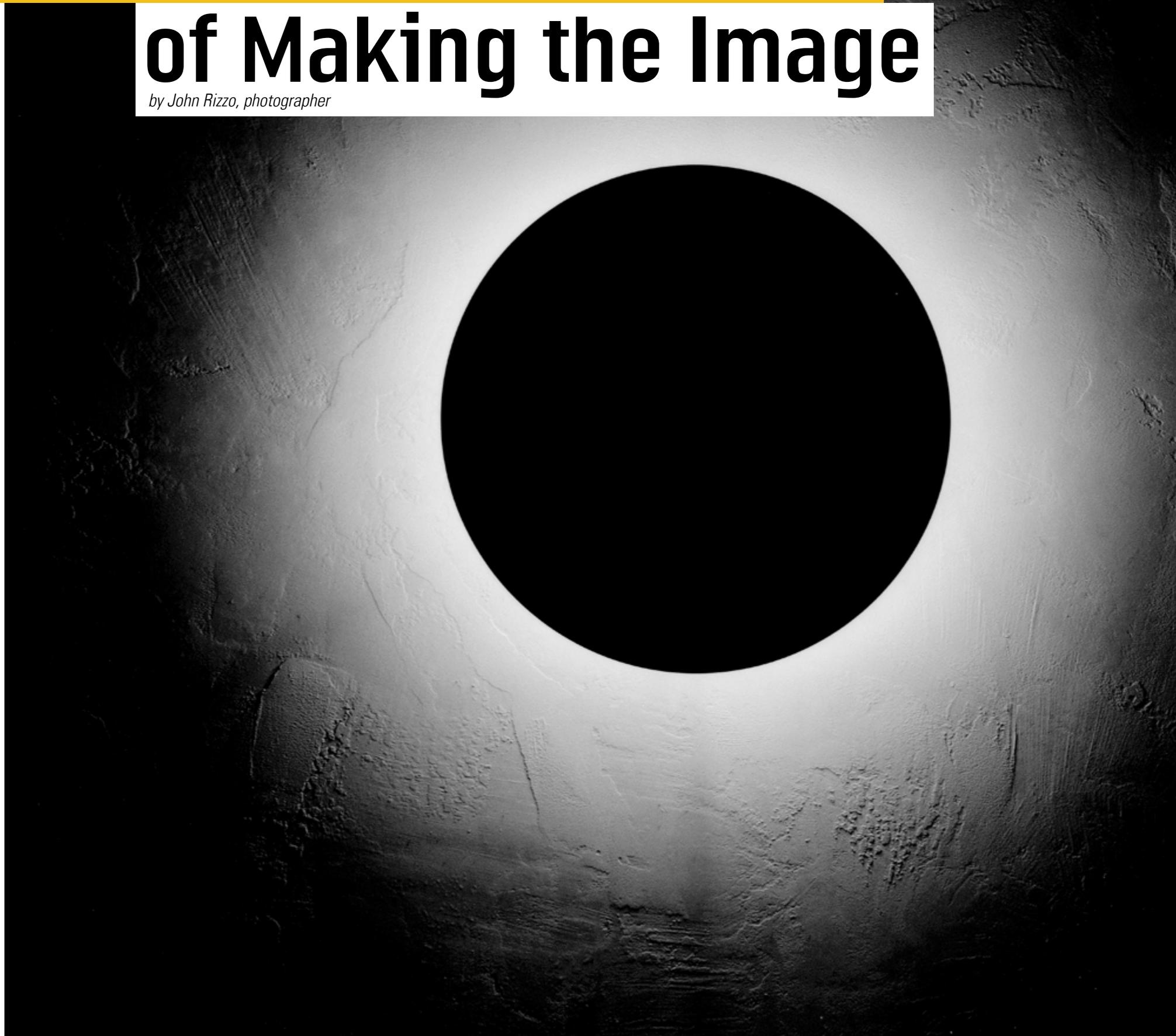


Don't miss Janet's weekly blog posts at: [thisandthatbyjl.com](http://thisandthatbyjl.com)

feature

# The Art is the Process of Making the Image

*by John Rizzo, photographer*



*Arnold Kastenbaum, Light at Middlebury College, Toned Gelatin Silver Print, 16"x20"*

Photography is as special a medium as music is. Can you tell me who your favorite band is? I can't. There are just too many sounds and different styles that I love, and picking my favorite would be an impossible task. The same is true with photography. Ever since the 1840s, when photographic processes were improved and simplified, thereby making it affordable to the masses for the first time, photographers have used it to find their voices.

When I think of portraits, I think of Edward Curtis's work with the Native Americans; reportage, I think of Mathew Brady's Civil War images and W. Eugene Smith's work in the Japanese fishing village of Minimata; for still life, I think of Irving Penn; and fashion, I think of Richard Avedon. We have the opportunity to enjoy the vastly different and unique visual experiences from whatever perspective the artist chooses.

The nine photographers in ArtsWestchester's *2020 Lawrence Salley Photography Award* online exhibition capture a wide range of subjects, perspectives and techniques. For instance, contrary to popular notion, digital photography has not made it easier to capture outstanding images. Yes, you can capture snapshots more easily, but the photographs in this exhibition are not just snapshots – there is effort, thought process, patience and discipline needed in order to capture something outstanding. Nor are the photographs in this exhibition all digital. Some of the artists represented in the show, such as Howard Goodman and Arnold

Kastenbaum, who is this year's Lawrence Salley Photography Award winner, are using the traditional capture and printing methods of film and darkrooms, which require a great deal of effort.

There isn't much visual consistency among the nine exhibiting photographers, except that they are all working with a box that has a lens attached to it and are pointing it in the way their heart tells them to. For instance, the works of Kastenbaum, Goodman, and Joseph Squillante remind me of painters who happen to be working in the medium of photography, Tom Atwood's work is as unique as his subjects, and

John Verner has a strong sense of color and the street.

Point being, put nine photographers in a room with one subject to photograph and you will get nine distinctly different images. How can this be? We all see differently, even if we are not aware of it. From my own experiences, I get a sensation that is

hard to describe whenever all of the elements that I look for come together in one moment. I look for the convergence of color, light, composition and timing. These are my gods. And they are shy and elusive. It takes a thousand hours of looking to find them. This is the discipline part of the medium of photography.

Like anything, professionals make this stuff look easy. But it ain't. It takes a lot of drive, personal time, expense and just plain hard work to create images like the ones on view in this exhibition. And that is why it is so important to support these fine artists. They are doing this work without any kind of return guaranteed,

“It takes a lot of drive, personal time, expense and just plain hard work to create images like the ones on view in this exhibition.”

## feature



*John Verner, Laundry Day, 2019, Digital Photography, 13"x19"*

and that takes a lot of guts.

There is one important thing to remember: the art isn't just the final image. The art is the *process* of making the image. The photographer's timing, planning, dedication and execution.

Backstage is not what you think. There are no cast parties after the show. It takes a tremendous effort to create a body of photographic work. The darkroom requires endless patience to remake a print that may not yet be what was envisioned, requiring a redo. Street photography comes with obstacles, such as crowds, traffic and police. You have to persevere. I have a singular focus when working; I only want to get the image I came for, and I will do anything to get it. I suspect that the artists represented in this show know all too well about this. They have done the hard work and have put themselves out there. Now we are the lucky ones who get to enjoy it.

**ON VIEW NOW**

**[artsw.org/lsalley2020](http://artsw.org/lsalley2020)**

**#AWonline**



*Howard Goodman, Forks, Silver Gelatin Print, 17"x14"*

## feature

# A Picture's Worth a Thousand Words

More photos from exhibiting photographers in ArtsWestchester's 2020 Lawrence Salley Photography Award online exhibition (see page A6).



Margaret Fox, Sleepy Hollow Lighthouse with Kayaker, 2019, Archival Fine Art Print, 17"x22"



Tom Atwood, Madison Hildebrand, 2017, 35 mm Digital, Inkjet, 16"x20"



Gina Randazzo, Un Violador En Tu Camino (A Rapist In Your Path), Outside Harvey Weinstein Trial, 1/10/20, Archival Pigment Print, 17"x22"



*Joseph Squillante, Painterly Sky, 1996, Artist Proof, 15"x18"*



*Barry Mason, Alpha Stars Step Team Performing at Arts on 3rd, Mt. Vernon, NY, 2013, Digital Print, 9.25"x14"*

feature

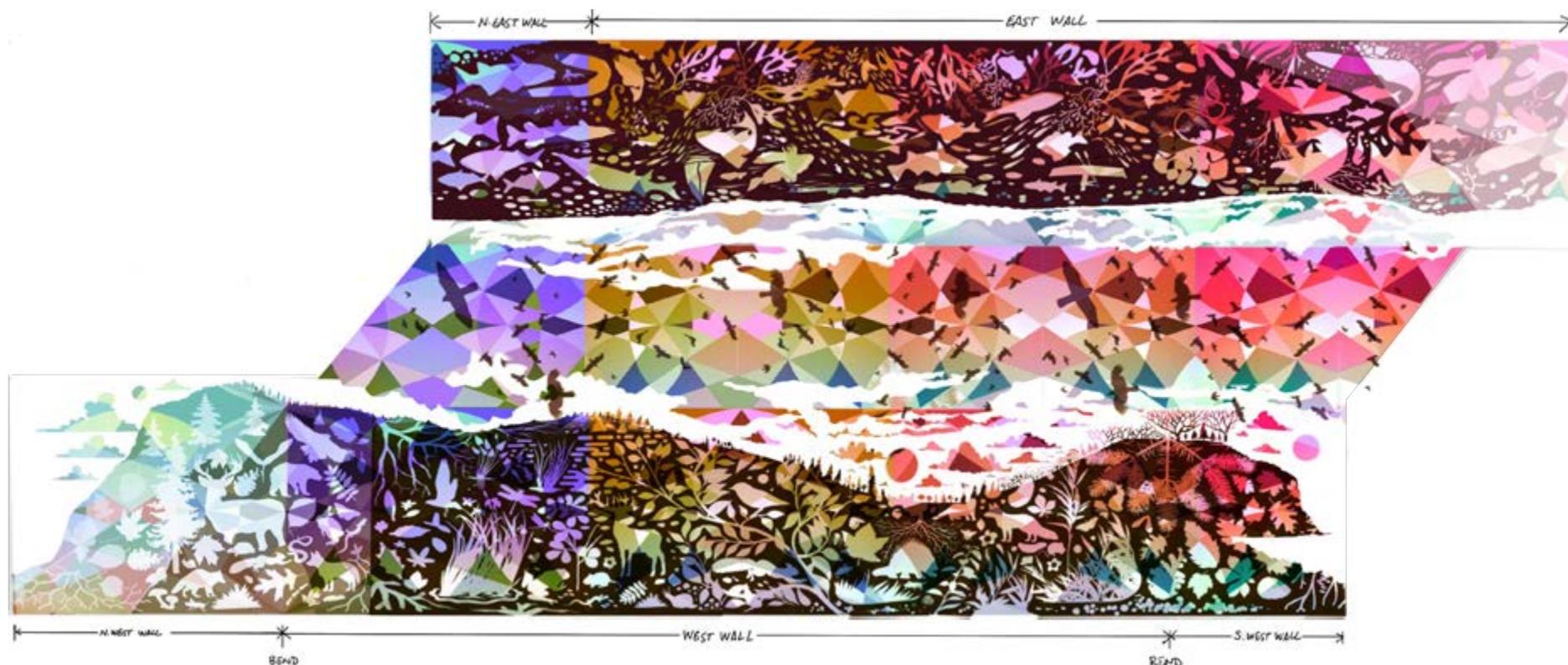
# The Ephemeral Nature of Things

by Michelle Falkenstein



Five days a week, artist Chris Soria hops on his silver bicycle at 7 a.m. and takes a five-minute ride from his Nyack home to an underpass on the Rockland County side of the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge. On the way, he picks up coffee and breakfast sandwiches for himself and three friends who are helping with his latest mural project, *The Flux of Being*.

Chris Soria (photo courtesy of New York State Thruway Authority)



Mural rendering courtesy of the artist and New York State Thruway Authority

"It's a balancing act the rest of the way," Soria jokes.

After breakfast, he and his crew get to work on Soria's colorful 4,000-square-foot mural that depicts the flora and fauna of the Hudson Valley parading across a geometric background.

Soria, 40, was one of eight artists chosen to create 10 commissioned artworks on or near the bridge's 3.6-mile-long shared pedestrian and bicycle path. The artwork selection committee, which included representatives from ArtsWestchester, Arts Council of Rockland and the New York State Thruway Authority, reviewed more than 100 applications before choosing the winners.

Painting a mural this large takes a lot of work—hence the helpers. Soria is being assisted by three artists from the metro area.

The foursome suits up in helmets, masks and coveralls before they get to work. They use hand sanitizer and maintain social

distancing as they navigate the South Nyack underpass. Soria, who has painted many outdoor murals before, says the team is undisturbed during their seven-hour workday because the path is

not yet open to the public.

"It has its advantages," he says. "I like public interaction, but it can really prolong the process."

The mural fills the walls and ceiling of the tunnel, extending to the surfaces that flare out at both entrances. It features trees, animals, plants, insects, fish, birds, fungi, reptiles and mollusks in a brilliant color palette.

"In the design, I play with the scale of these

specimens—in some cases increasing the size of smaller subjects, such as leaves and insects, and decreasing the size of larger forms, such as bears and trees," he says, which he hopes will let viewers relate to these creatures in new ways.

The foursome suits up in helmets, masks and coveralls before they get to work. They use hand sanitizer and maintain social distancing as they navigate the South Nyack underpass."

## feature

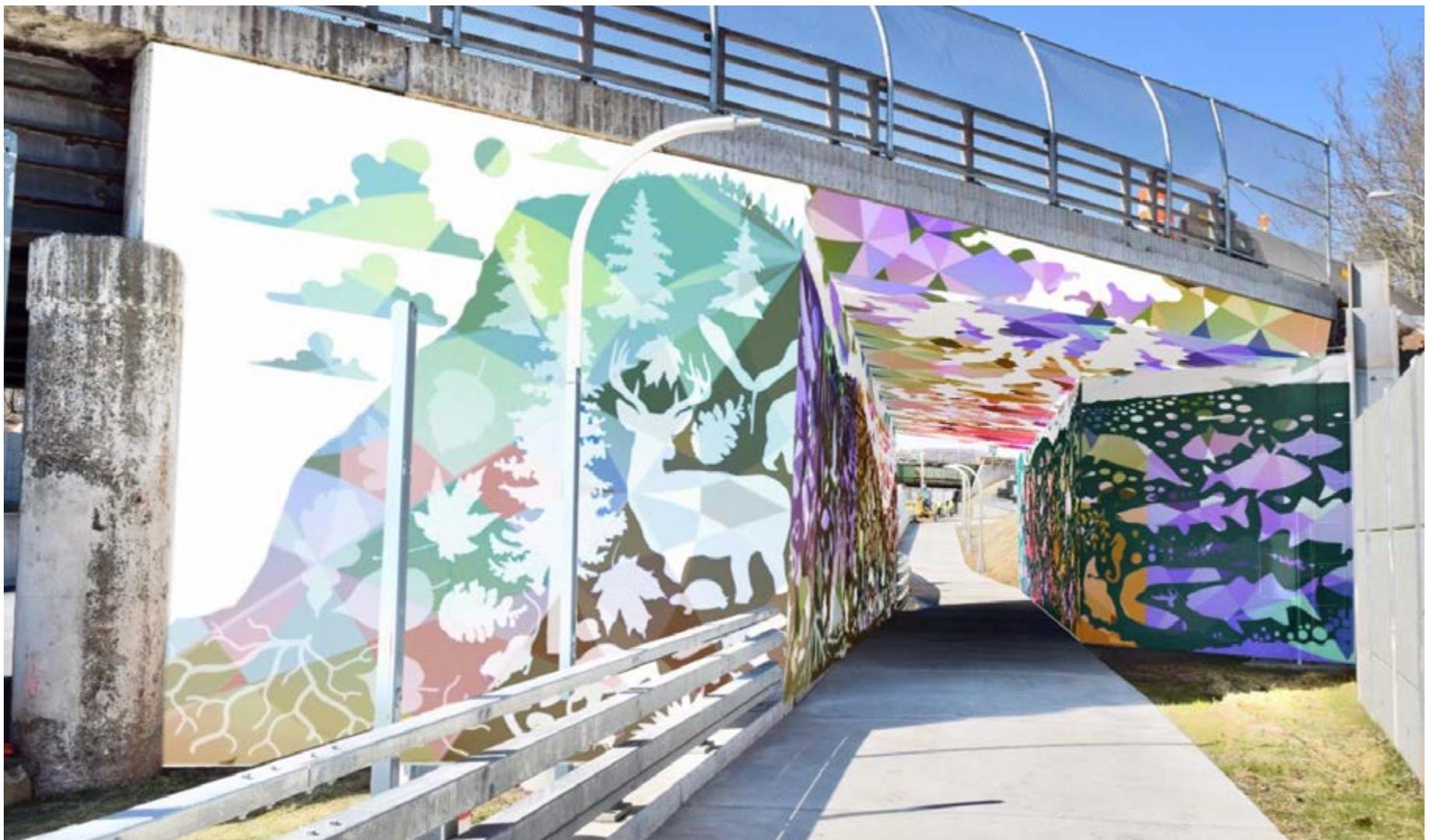
Fabricating a mural requires a number of steps: priming the surface, sketching the design, painting it and adding UV and anti-graffiti coating. Using water-based latex paint, Soria colors the fauna and flora first and the abstract geometrical background second. "I'm painting around the deer instead of painting the deer on abstract geometry," he explains. The mural is 16 feet high, which requires him to be harnessed and lifted on scaffolding.

**The mural is 16 feet high, which requires him to be harnessed and lifted on scaffolding."**

"My mural process often involves the use of a variety of mediums that precede fabrication of the actual mural painting," he says. "So while the mural is made with brushes and paint, it's fair to say that it is also created with pencil, pen, scissors, glue, paper, computer and a bunch of materials that may not appear in the physical mural, but certainly get it where it's going."

Soria, who earned his BFA at Parsons School of Design, has been painting murals for 15 years. He's also one half of Maniac Pumpkin Carvers, a company that creates elaborately carved pumpkins for television, corporate events and live audiences.

While carved pumpkins survive for only a week and a mural can last for decades, Soria sees a connection to his current project. "Even though the mural is more or less permanent, one of its primary subjects is the ephemeral nature of things," he says.



*Mural rendering courtesy of the artist and New York State Thruway Authority*

# The Ralph Martinelli Memorial Golf Outing

Gotta Love  
the Arts!



*Honoree Andrew Greenspan*



*Honoree Andrew Benerofe*

On the new date of Tuesday, September 22, a full field of golfers will tee off at Wykagyl Country Club. In the spirit of camaraderie and good sportsmanship, ArtsWestchester will honor the memory of Ralph Martinelli, a friend of the arts and dedicated golfer. Martinelli was not only a good golfer, he was also a champion in business and in giving back to the community. He supported many nonprofits, including ArtsWestchester, and was a friend to all. His generosity of spirit continues through his brother, Richard Martinelli, who now serves on the ArtsWestchester Board and its golf committee.

The newly renamed Ralph Martinelli Memorial Golf Outing will also honor two leaders, Andrew Benerofe of Benerofe Properties, and Andrew Greenspan of GHP Realty, whose participation and active support every year have elevated this event to being a major fundraiser for ArtsWestchester. Golfers can join the team of players who love the challenge of competing on a championship course along with the fun of supporting the arts at the same time. Foursomes are limited, so early reservations are recommended at [artsw.org/golf](http://artsw.org/golf).

feature

# The Cultural Cost of COVID-19

by Randy Cohen, Vice President of Research and Information, Americans for the Arts



Friday Night Take-Out at The Pleasantville Diner (photo credit: Todd Shapera Photography)

# The coronavirus is having a devastating impact on America's arts sector.



Since the first U.S. case was diagnosed, cancellations and closings are being reported at thousands of arts organizations across the country, artists are posting high unemployment rates, and organizations are furloughing staff.

## Financial Losses to the Arts

Americans for the Arts created the *COVID-19 Impact on the Arts Survey* to measure the financial and human impacts that the coronavirus has had on the arts. The survey opened on March 13 and, to date, we have received more than 12,000 responses. The findings make plain the damage to the arts sector.

Nationally, financial losses to the nonprofit arts sector are estimated to be \$4.5 billion (as of April 6). That is up from \$3.2 billion just three weeks earlier. Nonprofit arts organizations have lost an estimated 197 million admissions due to cancelled or postponed events.

Other findings from the study include: 94% groups have cancelled events; 29% have used financial reserves; 34% have reduced creative workforce (artists); 23% have reduced staff, while 43% report that it is "likely" they will reduce staff (28% say "extremely likely"); 24% have reduced salaries/payroll; and 69% expect this crisis to have a "severe" impact on their organization (36% expect an "extremely severe" impact).

“Nationally, financial losses to the nonprofit arts sector are estimated to be \$4.5 billion (as of April 6).”

## Economic Impact of Financial Losses

What is the economic cost of 197 million fewer audience members passing through the turnstiles? It's \$6.2 billion, and here's how we know: Americans for the Arts' *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5* study demonstrates that the typical arts

## feature

attendee spends \$31.47 per person, per event, not including the cost of admission on items such as meals, parking, lodging and retail. Do the math and this means that local businesses already have missed out on \$6.2 billion in event-related spending by arts audiences.

Taken together, the \$10.7 billion in total financial losses (\$4.5 billion by arts organizations + \$6.2 billion in event-related spending by arts audiences) has resulted in 304,000 jobs no longer being supported and \$1.8 billion in lost revenue to federal, state and local governments.

### The Rebuilding Power of the Arts

Clearly, this is a distressing time for the country, with more uncertainty ahead. When the crisis does end, however, the arts should be looked to as an essential tool in both economic recovery and reconnecting our communities.

Getting people out of their houses and spending money again will be key to jump-starting the economy (70% of the U.S. economy is consumer spending). This is what the arts do. They create social and economic opportunities—attending a festival, visiting a museum, going to the theater, seeing a concert—and every time, that attendee will spend an average of \$31.47 beyond the ticket cost.

This provides income to local businesses, energizes our downtowns, promotes visitation to different neighborhoods, and puts people to work. Total national event-related spending in 2015 was \$103 billion and supported more than two million jobs!

The arts also will create opportunities to heal the isolation caused by social distancing and unify our communities. Regardless of who we voted for, or our personal faith, everyone loves arts experiences, such as attending local festivals, working together on a community mural, or seeing *Hamilton* for a second time. These are things we do together—shared and meaningful experiences in public spaces—and the research shows that the public understands these well-being benefits: 72% of Americans believe “the arts unify our communities



*The Mead Orchard Farm Stand at the Pleasantville Farmers Market (photo credit: Todd Shapera Photography)*

regardless of age, race and ethnicity,” 73% agree that the arts “help [them to] understand other cultures better” and 81% of the population says the arts are a “positive experience in a troubled world.”

What’s more, these perspectives are observed across all demographic and economic categories.

The coronavirus toll is heavy, but the arts can be our greatest asset in recovering from the crisis socially and economically. This is why doing everything in our power to bolster the arts now will make our nation stronger later.

*This article was originally published by Americans for the Arts as “It’s the Arts. Troubling News, Yet Still Room for Optimism.”*

# Turning Creative Energy to Mask-Making

by Kathleen Reckling, Deputy Director of Public Programs, ArtsWestchester

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a community of creatives throughout Westchester – seamstresses, tailors and artists – are focused on the most important cause at hand: quelling the spread of the virus. After concerns about the availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care workers, cloth masks were being worn over the required N95 masks as a way of managing the supply and prolonging the efficacy of the N95s. So artists and makers rallied.

Armed with sewing machines and bolts of fabric, they began to stitch. Liz Maryland Poling-Hiraldo, Jayne Grant and Khamla Erskine are founding members of Croton Face Mask Makers, a grassroots collective of some 500 volunteers who have focused their energies on making masks and scrub caps for front line workers. They use a Facebook Group to share patterns and tips, and to coordinate mask donations. In their first month of collaboration, they prepared 6,502 masks to donate to dozens of facilities in the Hudson Valley and Connecticut. To keep up the momentum, they are welcoming all volunteers to join the fight.

There is no shortage of similar stories of art-fueled generosity from across the region. Jennifer Hoertz of Brewster, NY, an expert milliner who is usually readying for Derby season, also turned to mask-making to protect friends and family. She has donated more than 150 masks to



Mask by artist Haifa Bint-Kadi (photo courtesy of the artist)

workers in the United States and Puerto Rico.

ArtsWestchester teaching artist Haifa Bint-Kadi of Yonkers began exploring what made N95 masks so effective. With this knowledge, and in addition to her guided meditative art workshops on Zoom, Bint-Kadi went to work converting HVAC filters into her own colorful masks. She explains: “Part of the art-making process is always research. Throughout my life, I have found these skills to be transferrable, even in the midst of a pandemic.”

Liza Fuller was a long-time employee of the New York design company Homenature which, like so many businesses, was forced to reduce staffing and close their brick and mortar stores. Recently, and before the virus outbreak, she had pulled her sewing machine out of the closet to teach her fiancé how to sew. Now she’s mask-making. Helping her neighbors weather the pandemic has given her a new mission. “The sewing machine has been sitting on my dining table,” she says. “It finally got a purpose.”



Masks by Croton Face Masks Makers (photo credit: Kiersten Rose Fiorio)

## spotlight

# A Public Art Update From ArtsWestchester

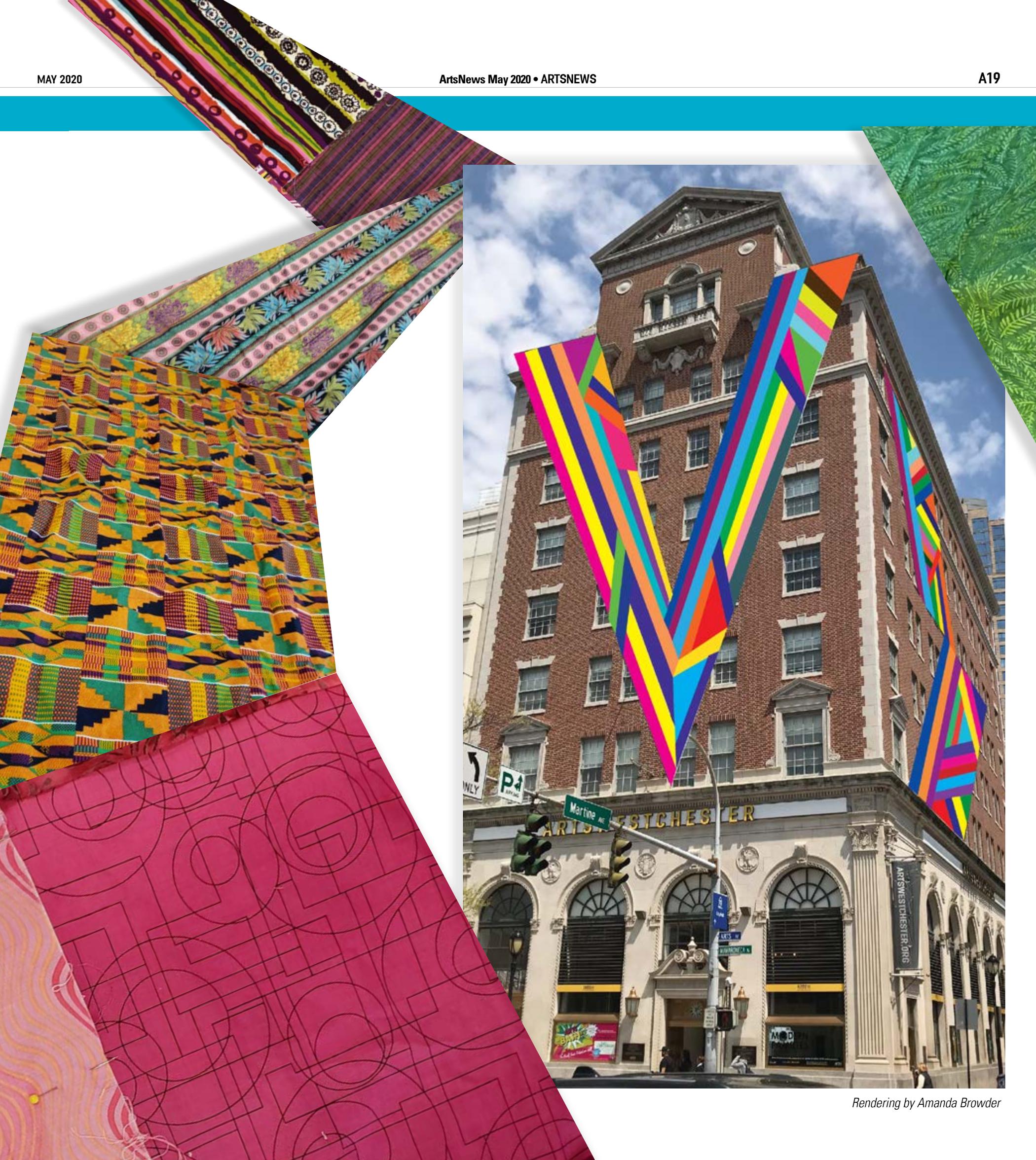
## Dear Friend of the Arts:

One of the most endearing things about the arts is its power to bring people together. That's what we had in mind when we initiated a major public art project that would be sewn by many hands in the community. Unfortunately, the social distancing that is required due to the COVID-19 virus has curtailed our sewing sessions and we need more time to complete *Metropolis Sunrise*, the monumental work of public art by artist Amanda Browder.

While the unveiling of the work was originally scheduled for May 2020, we now need to move the installation date forward to allow time to complete the work. Once it is safe to gather, we will resume sewing sessions. In the meantime, we are considering the feasibility of some "Zoom" sewing sessions.

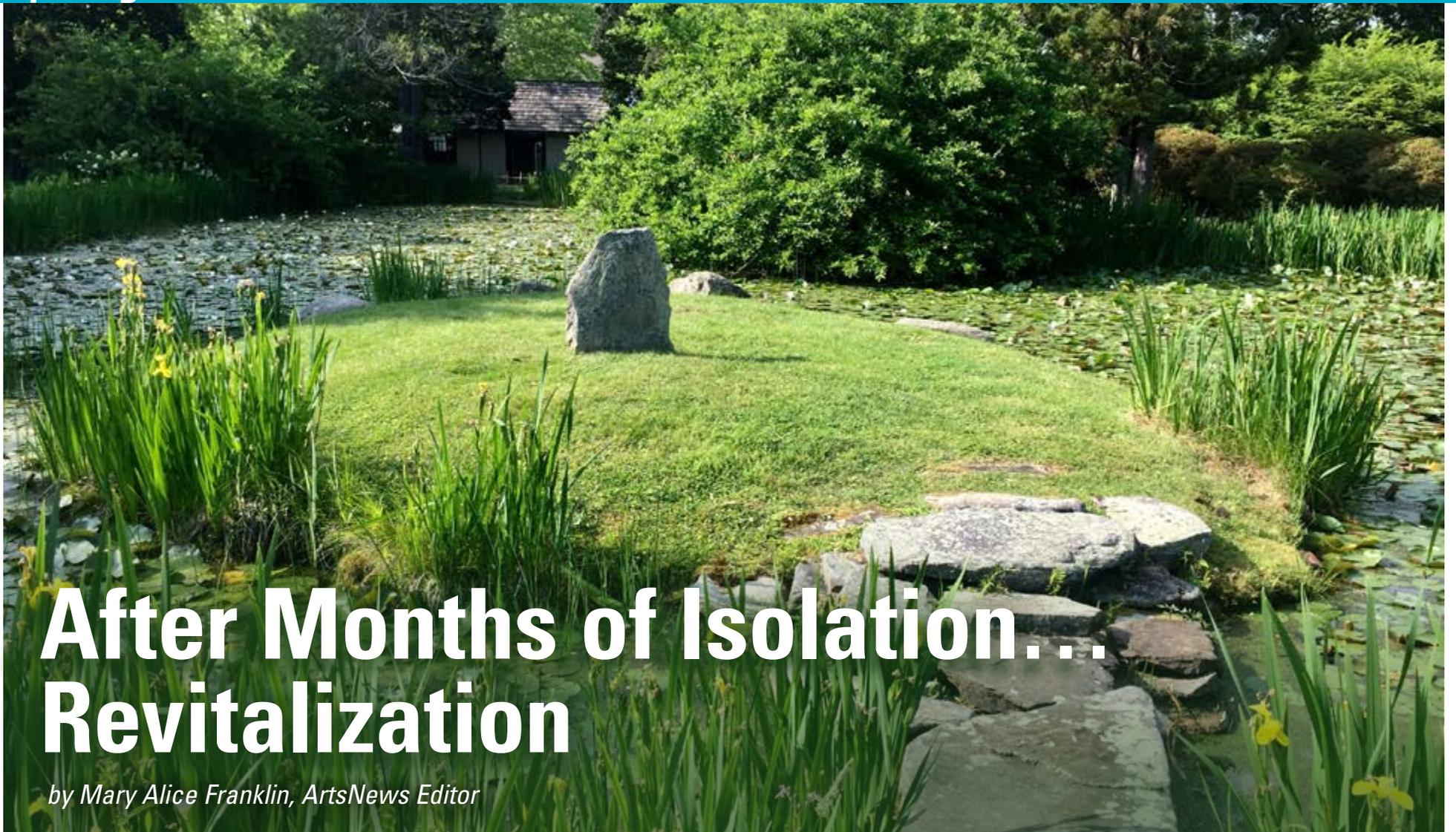
Collectively, we have sewn an incredible 6,500 square-feet of fabric, which means that we are two-thirds of the way towards completing our goal of sewing 10,000 square-feet! We have rallied a staggering number of volunteers – some 400 individuals – and partners. *Metropolis Sunrise* is fundamentally an expression of a community working together to bring beauty and vibrancy to their shared living space. During these times, such connectivity is more important than ever. ArtsWestchester will continue to find ways of connecting around public art-making and placemaking. We ask that you stay in touch with us as we work to complete and celebrate the entirety of this project.

We thank Amanda Browder, our volunteers and our partners for their contributions to this project!



Rendering by Amanda Browder

## spotlight



# After Months of Isolation... Revitalization

by Mary Alice Franklin, ArtsNews Editor

*Gardens at Hammond Museum (photo courtesy of Hammond Museum and Japanese Stroll Garden)*

A welcome word lingers with possibility after months of isolation: revitalization. Waiting in the wings, or perhaps the bamboo shoots as the case may be, is Lara Netting, trustee at the Hammond Museum and Japanese Stroll Garden. Netting is the manager of Hammond's Revitalization Project, which was to be put into motion this spring as a way of creating a more immersive stroll garden experience for its visitors. The Museum was awarded a microgrant of \$5,000 by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP) to help accomplish this undertaking.

In a Japanese garden, everything is intentional. Each plant is chosen with purpose. The project will assess the state of the Museum's current gardens, working with garden design and care expert Charles Sadler to identify key plants and spaces for improvement. Volunteers will work alongside Sadler to mend and develop those portions of the garden in need of restoration. They will also learn pruning techniques for future maintenance, ensuring the garden's sustainability.

The CGP initiative, available to nonprofit Japanese gardens in the United States, intends to "foster mutual understanding between

the U.S. and Japan on a grassroots level." The Museum plans to host a half-day symposium on November 7 to present the project. Netting will speak on the history of the garden, Sadler on the design of the restoration, and Yann Giguere of Mokuchi Woodworking on Japanese tea house construction. In addition, Netting will present the project at the North American Japanese Garden Association biennial meeting in San Diego this fall. Both events will be determined by circumstances regarding COVID-19.

A stroll garden is intended to encourage contemplation, leading to a deeper understanding of nature – something that many people are yearning for from their living rooms. However for now, the possibility of a newly refreshed garden space has been put on hold. That is, until Governor Cuomo determines that it is safe to conduct business once again. "We expect the Revitalization Project to go forward, even if COVID-19 forces the work to be rescheduled for 2021," says Netting. Once the project is underway, she says that the work will be documented on the Museum's website, giving visitors a peek into the process with before and after photos of the key garden plants and spaces.

## In Memoriam: Don Cecil

Donald Cecil, a dedicated friend of the arts and education, and a champion of those less fortunate, recently passed away. He and his late wife Jane were well-known figures in the philanthropic world of Westchester – at the Neuberger Museum of Art, the

*"A dedicated friend of the arts and education, and a champion of those less fortunate..."*

Purchase College Foundation and at ArtsWestchester, from whom they received the 2016 Arts Patron Award (Jane posthumously).

Don Cecil was a Yale

man, an executive in a family business, and finally a successful investor and financial advisor. In retirement, he devoted himself to philanthropy and education by mentoring young people through the Jandon Scholars, a program he and his wife founded that enabled students from low-income families to attend college. Cecil's many business and charitable accomplishments will be remembered, but he will perhaps be known most as a loving husband, father and friend to all who knew him.

## In Memoriam: Lee Pope

Leandra (Lee) Pope, founder of the Schoolhouse Theater, recently passed away.

In 1983, Pope had a vision for turning an abandoned elementary school in Croton Falls into a theater and arts center. After the cafeteria/gym turned into a theater and classrooms became galleries, Schoolhouse became a respected professional theater. Since, accomplished and emerging actors, directors and producers have worked with the theater. As well, several plays produced there have made their way to Off-Broadway. Pope was honored in 2018 with an ArtsWestchester Arts Award in the Community category.

*"Pope had a vision for turning an abandoned elementary school in Croton Falls into a theater and arts center."*

## BRAVO PARAGUAY!



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-Adam Stone  
Publisher

*Thank you for your support!*

## spotlight

# Being Incarcerated During COVID-19

Rehabilitation Through The Arts (RTA), an arts-in-prison program, has been highlighting its alumni members through messages about life during COVID-19. For instance, a recent video shows RTA alum Ivan Calaff reciting an excerpt from *Today*, a poem written by his friend who is currently incarcerated. The words speak to the fears many incarcerated individuals are experiencing during this pandemic.

## *Today*

Today I felt like crying.

I think it had something to do with coming to grips with the fact that I am being chased, stalked, hunted by an invisible enemy; an enemy that doesn't care that I have a young daughter who just found me after 18 years of being shuttled through the foster care system; an invisible monster that doesn't care about my two beautiful grandchildren who have not gotten the chance to meet Grandpa.

Today I felt like crying.

I think it had something to do with becoming paralyzingly aware that I'm a sitting duck, a lamb waiting to be slaughtered, as I sit in my penetrable open-air tomb listening for a beast that doesn't make a sound.

[Click here to see Ivan's video.](#)

## Call for Submissions:

**Studio Theater in Exile** and **Hudson Valley MoCA** invite readers to participate in *Climbing the Walls*, a collection of scenes, monologues, poetry and images that explore how individuals are experiencing life right now and how we imagine the future. The project will interweave submissions to create an online collaborative performance piece.

Info: [info@studiotheaterinexile.com](mailto:info@studiotheaterinexile.com).

**Submissions Deadline: June 1.**

# JOURNALISM: BECAUSE REGIONAL NEWS MATTERS.

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WESTFAIRONLINE.COM

## Don't Miss These ArtsWestchester Events

**NEW  
DATE**

**Arts Award Luceon:**  
Tues. June 30, 2020

**ArtsBash:**

Tues. Sept. 8, 2020

**NEW  
DATE**

**JazzFest White Plains:**  
Wed. Sept. 9-13, 2020

**NEW  
DATE**

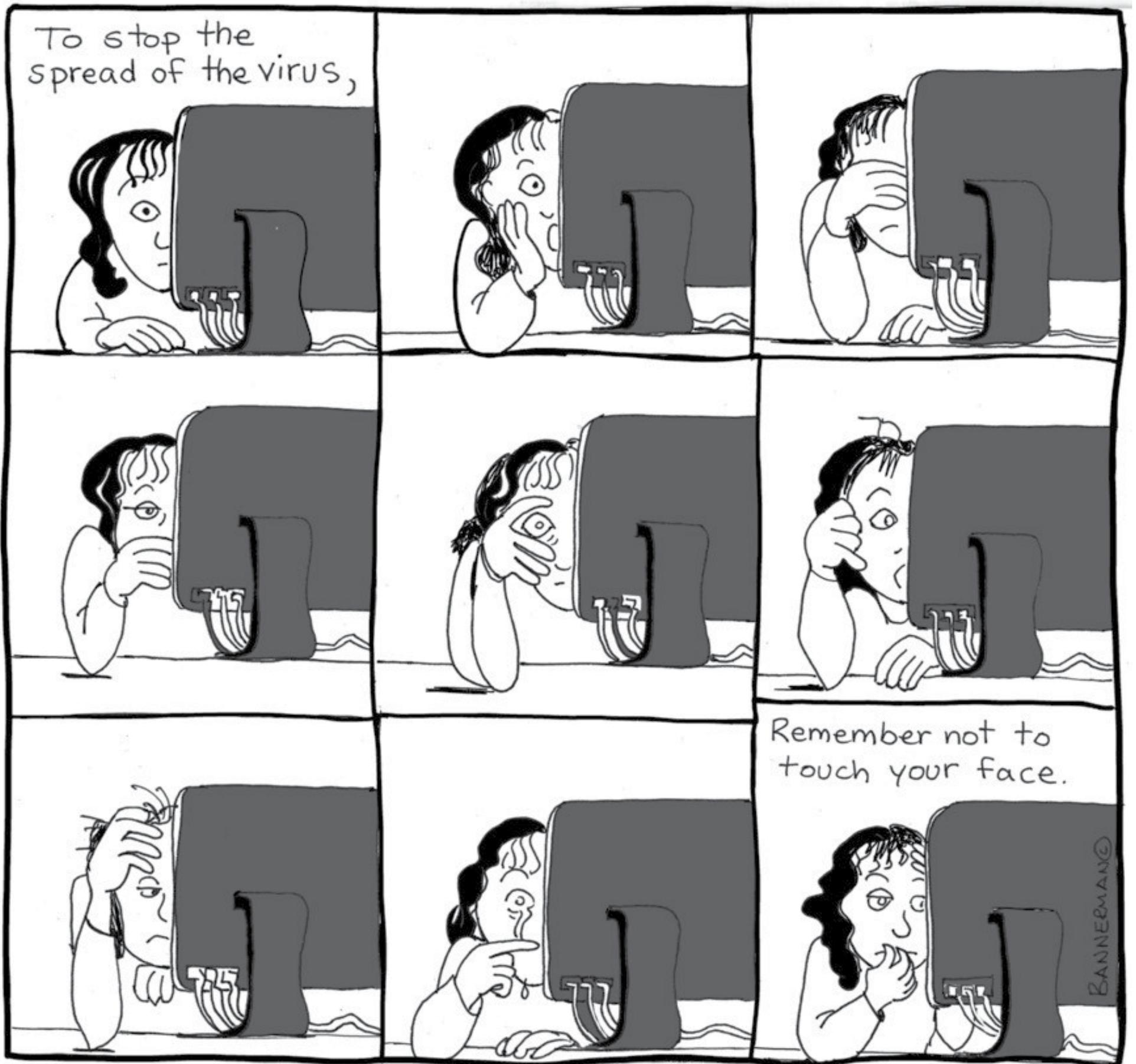
**Golf Outing:**

Tues. Sept. 22, 2020

**Annual Gala:**

Sat. Nov. 21, 2020

spotlight



Artwork by Isabella Bannerman  
([isabellabannerman.com/](http://isabellabannerman.com/))

## virtual activities

# Look Who's Going Virtual! It's Everyone!



Arami Hovy performing at ArtsWestchester's Paraguay Folk Celebration. The 2020 Paraguay festival takes place on May 15 (photo credit: Todd Shapera)

**ARTS 10566** provides fun and enriching instructional lesson-based activities through its new 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 and a look back at its staff's favorite exhibited works every Thursday, as well as Virtual [ArtsMobile activities](#), and more. [facebook.com/artswestchester](https://facebook.com/artswestchester) and

[instagram.com/artswestchester](https://instagram.com/artswestchester)

- Paraguayan Festival: May 15 (RSVP to the [Facebook Event](#) or subscribe on YouTube for updates)
- [Lawrence Salley Photography Award and Virtual Exhibition](#): On view now

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

and [instagram.com/bedfordplayhouse](https://www.instagram.com/bedfordplayhouse).

- [Environmental Film Series: Just Eat It: A Food Waste Story](#): May 11 at 8pm
- [Author Event & Conversations: First Blood with David Morrell](#): May 14 at 7:30pm

**Blue Door Art Center's Faces: Portraits** exhibition will now be online from May 1-31. The Center also hosts a series of free online Saturday art workshops for kids on Zoom: May 2, 9 & 16 at 10am.

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

- [Livestream: "What Makes It Great?" With Rob Kapilow and Michael Brown](#): May 3 at 3pm

**Clay Art Center** will present *Connections*, a virtual exhibition of postcards that documents ceramic artists' experiences

during this time of social distancing. The exhibition will be on view from May 18-Dec. 31.

- [Surface Decoration Demo with Yoko Sekino Bove](#): May 6 at 6pm

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

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

**Emelin Theatre's** Virtual Screening Room streams the best in independent, international and documentary film for the price of a movie ticket. \$12 per film. For the complete list of offerings, [click here](#). More streaming available on [Facebook](#).

**Harrison Public Library** is offering suggestions on its website for what to read, watch, and listen to, as well as [virtual workshops](#) for teens and adults

via Zoom. [harrisonpl.org/explore](https://www.harrisonpl.org/explore)

- [Magazine Birds: May 7 at 1pm](#)
- [Birds in a Tree Book Sculpture: May 28 at 3:30pm](#).

**Historic Hudson Valley** offers digital content on its website, including home craft videos like tinsmithing and its *People Not Property* interactive documentary about the history of Northern colonial enslavement through the personal stories of enslaved people. [hudsonvalley.org/article/history-at-your-fingertips/](https://www.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 Trail walk](#), are available on the Museum's [website](#).

**Hudson Valley Writers Center** will present free readings throughout the month, and a special offer on its own SHP chapbooks. For a complete list of youth programs, virtual classes, workshops and online readings, visit [writerscenter.org](https://www.writerscenter.org).

- [Slapering Hol Press Virtual Reading Series: May 3 at 4-5:30pm](#)



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Thursdays program!

[artsw.org/teentuesdays](https://artsw.org/teentuesdays)



## virtual activities



Artwork by Jane Neuss Cohen on display in *Connections*, Clay Art Center's online exhibition

- [Poetry Reading on Zoom](#): May 8 @ 7- 8:45pm
- ["Writing through Darkness to Light" Zoom Class](#): May 11 at 1-3:30pm

**Jacob Burns Film Center** 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** launched Jazz Forum @ Home, a series

of concerts live-streamed on Facebook Live every Saturday at 7pm. [facebook.com/jazzforumclub](https://facebook.com/jazzforumclub)

- Facebook Live concert with Nanny Assis, featuring Daniel Assis: May 2 at 7pm
- Facebook Live concert with Alexis Cole: May 9 at 7pm

**John Jay Homestead** 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** offers a slideshow and virtual tour of its upcoming rescheduled *Bisa Butler: Portraits* exhibition, as well as [downloadable kids activities](#) that introduce audiences to the artist's quilted portraits. [katonahmuseum.org](http://katonahmuseum.org)

- [Instagram Takeover with artist Bisa Butler](#): May 3 at 6pm
- [Picture & Prose](#): May 4 at 11am
- [Virtual Docent Dialogues](#): May 7 & 14 at 2:30pm

**Madelyn Jordan Fine Art** presents *Abstractly Speaking: Six + One*, an online exhibition that features seven abstract artists through May 9. [madelynjordonfineart.com/exhibition](http://madelynjordonfineart.com/exhibition)

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

**Music at Asbury** has put together a series of full-length concerts from past seasons, available to stream on its website. New concerts will be released on Sundays, May 3 and May 10.

**Music Conservatory of Westchester** will present a virtual concert to be streamed on [YouTube](#) on May 8 at 12pm. Registration is also still open for private online video lessons. [musicconservatory.org/virtual-lessons](http://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](http://purchase.edu/neuberger-museum-of-art)

- Art Sandwiched-In: A Virtual Curator-led Exhibition Tour: May 1 & 15 12:30-1pm.

**New Rochelle Council on the Arts** presents *Black & White: The Absence of Color*, a virtual exhibition is on view through May 26.

**Ossining Public Library's** Virtual Mother Goose Story Time will take place every Thursday at 10am on [Facebook](#). Other resources are available in its [Stuck at Home page](#).

**Pelham Art Center** is hosting a series of virtual studio visits, youth art classes and events. Additional online events can be found on the Center's [event page](#) and [Facebook page](#).

- [Mixed Media Class with Donna Ross](#): May 1 at 10:30-11:30am
- [Virtual Studio Visit with Charlotte Mouquin](#): May 1 at 1-2pm
- [Chinese landscape painting Discussion](#): May 7 at 11:30am

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

**Play Group Theater** launched PGTonline which allows audiences to enroll for virtual Spring TheatreLab and Little Theatre classes through May 21, and PGT Project 24 via Zoom. To learn more visit: [playgroup.org/online](#)

**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, audiobooks, music and streaming television and movies, for anyone with their library card. [westchesterlibraries.org/listen-read](#)

**Rye Arts Center** is offering a series of [online classes](#), [music lessons](#) and [workshops](#) for children and adults, as well as other weekly offerings on its [Facebook page](#) and a virtual tour of its current exhibition, [Brigitte Loritz Retrospective](#).

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

**Tarrytown Music Hall** has launched a series of free one-hour workshops for kids. Previous topics included Shakespeare and Creative Writing. [tarrytownmusichall.org/academy](#)

- Morning Story Time for parents and Pre-K through

1st-grade kids: Mondays at 10-10:30am.

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

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

**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](#)

**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](#)

- Friday Film Series: May 1 & 8 at 9pm.

## ArtsWestchester's ArtsMobile has Gone Digital!



Join us every week to participate in a creative and fun art-making activity. Using items commonly found in your home, families, youth and adults can work on literary, performing and visual art workshops led by professional teaching artists.

Explore our virtual ArtsMobile workshops today.  
[artsw.org/artsmobile](#)

Made Possible by:



## spotlight

# 10 MOVIE PICKS

## Better by Farr: Corona Watch List

by John Farr, Bedford Playhouse Founder

Many people think of The Bedford Playhouse as offering mainly older titles, but it just ain't so. After all, classics come in all shapes, sizes and ages. The 10 recommendations below were all released over the past decade. Many are lesser-known films that audiences may have missed – a balanced mix of genres and moods, and of domestic, foreign, narrative and documentary titles.



*My Life as a Zucchini*



*The Kids Are All Right*



*Stories We Tell*

### 1 **Personal Shopper (2017):**

This subtle, spooky thriller concerns a young woman (Kristen Stewart) who works as a personal shopper to a celebrity. Her twin brother has recently died from a heart defect, a condition she shares. Adrift, she waits for some sign from the afterlife. Stewart is fabulous. *Stream on: YouTube, Google Play, iTunes, Amazon*

### 2 **My Life as a Zucchini (2016):** Here's a touching animated feature that adults will love, too. Director Claude Barras employs stop-motion animation to tell the story of Courgette, a young boy who is sent to a group home when his mother dies. Depressing though it may sound, it's actually colorful, wise and uplifting. *Stream on: Netflix, iTunes, Google Play, YouTube, Amazon, Microsoft Store, DIRECTV, Redbox*

**Testament of Youth (2015):**

This captivating romantic adventure features Alicia Vikander as a young woman whose entry to Oxford is upended by World War I. Soon, with her brother and fiancé both on the front lines, she enlists as a military nurse. Beautifully mounted, and brimming with period atmosphere. *Stream on: iTunes, Amazon, Google Play, YouTube, FandangoNOW*

**99 Homes (2015):**

A single dad (Andrew Garfield) gets evicted from the home he shares with his mother (Laura Dern) and son (Noah Lomax). Wanting to buy it back, he secretly goes to work for the slimy realtor who threw him out (Michael Shannon). A malignant Shannon shines in this scorching drama. *Stream on: Amazon, Google Play, YouTube, iTunes, FandangoNOW*



99 Homes

**The Seven Five (2015):**

This riveting doc tells the true tale of Michael Dowd, who joins the NYPD in the early eighties and is posted to a drug-ridden precinct in East New York. There, he and his accomplices engage in flagrant corruption. Eventually, the law they're sworn to protect catches up to them. *Stream on: Netflix, YouTube, Google Play, iTunes, Amazon*

**Locke (2014):**

Tom Hardy plays the title character, a harried construction manager who, driving in his car one night, fields multiple phone calls of both a personal and professional nature. As time passes, it becomes clear that his life is coming apart. An actor's showcase for the insanely talented Hardy. *Stream on: Netflix, Google Play, YouTube, iTunes, Amazon, Microsoft Store, Redbox, FandangoNOW*



Pride

**Pride (2014):**

Bill Nighy stars in this winning, fact-based British sleeper. In 1984, with the country's miners on strike, gay activists unite to support them, as both groups share an antipathy for the policies of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. After an awkward start, this unlikely alliance works wonders. *Stream on: Google Play, YouTube, Amazon, Microsoft Store, Redbox, FandangoNOW*

**The Great Beauty (2013):**

Paolo Sorrentino's eye-popping ode to Rome (and Fellini) is unforgettable. Toni Servillo plays Jep, a once-celebrated author who's frittered away his talent by basking in the city's party lifestyle. Now turning 65, Jep searches for some meaning to it all. This is one search you'll want to join. *Stream on: iTunes, Amazon, YouTube, Google Play, Criterion Channel*

**Stories We Tell (2012):**

Canadian actor/director Sarah Polley takes us on a fearless excavation of her family and early life. While interviewing her siblings and father, she reminisces about her late mother, uncovering elements of mystery and regret. Then she uncovers a secret that rocks her world. Unmissable. *Stream on: iTunes, Google Play, YouTube, Microsoft Store, Redbox, FandangoNOW*

**The Kids Are All Right (2010):** This is a warm, witty comedy about two artificially conceived kids of lesbian partners who decide to find out who their real father is. Once he enters their lives, complications predictably ensue with the female parents. The sterling cast includes Annette Bening, Julianne Moore and Mark Ruffalo.

*Stream on: iTunes, YouTube, Google Play, Amazon, Microsoft Store, DIRECTV, Redbox, FandangoNOW*

**For streaming movies and interactive programs from Bedford Playhouse, visit [bedfordplayhouse.org](http://bedfordplayhouse.org).**

## spotlight

# Tough times call for sweet measures!

## Jazz Forum Arts Recommends...

by Mark Morganelli, Jazz Forum Arts Executive Director

We are so fortunate to live in Westchester County, home to an abundance of excellent cultural organizations, many of which are offering live or recorded music via the internet as a sort of balm for the soul. When our normal becomes abnormal, there is still an underlying urge to connect with audiences and supporters. As such, some organizations are utilizing the internet to have great artists perform for widespread enjoyment.

Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts in Katonah is inviting folks to join them virtually for livestream concerts by various artists in its Music Room. The 32-year-old concert series Downtown Music at Grace in White Plains is affording devotees the opportunity to enjoy many past performances by accessing the archives on its website and inviting e-mail subscribers to enjoy music from previous seasons. "Coping...with Copland House" offers listeners a musical respite when folks visit Copland House's website, availing themselves of past performances by stellar artists.

RiverArts, the 53-year-old organization based in Hastings-on-Hudson, is providing remote music lessons during the pandemic while most of its regular programming is unable to take place. Similarly, Music Conservatory of Westchester in White Plains offers virtual music lessons via Skype, Zoom and other platforms, while they are also broadcasting a virtual concert for the community on May 8.

As for Jazz Forum Club in Tarrytown, though it has been closed due to the coronavirus concerns, a weekly Jazz Forum @ Home e-newsletter



*Nanny Assis will perform with Daniel Assis on May 2 in a Facebook Live-stream presented by Jazz Forum Arts*

features past performances, as well as previews of weekly streams on Facebook Live (each Saturday). Pianists Julius Rodriguez and Ted Rosenthal have performed from their homes, as have vocalists and keyboardists Sherma Andrews and Ann Hampton Callaway. Recently, celebrated vocalist Camille Bertault even broadcast from her home in Paris, collaborating with her dad who plays piano. On May 2, Nanny Assis, featuring Daniel Assis, will perform; on May 9, Alexis Cole.

During these incredibly challenging times, as we socially distance so that we can return to getting together socially without the distance, it is music that has a very special capacity to heal and uplift our spirits. Take some time out of your schedule to check out the wonderful musical offerings of many of our cherished organizations right here in Westchester – you'll be glad you did.

# Music From Copland House

Now may be a good time to head off to the mysterious, faraway land – and its world of magic, sprites, and spells – that William Shakespeare conjured in his idiosyncratic play *The Tempest*. In July 2011, Music from Copland House visited the Manhattan studios of WQXR for a “Café Concert” (something of a precursor of NPR’s popular “Tiny Desk Concerts” series). There, the ensemble’s Founding Artists, Nicholas Kitchen (violin), Derek Bermel (clarinet) and Michael Boriskin (piano), along with guest artist Joshua Roman (cello), sampled the opening movement, “Ariel Fantasy,” of Paul Moravec’s Pulitzer Prize-winning *Tempest Fantasy*, which captures Shakespeare’s whimsy and eloquence. Says Boriskin: “As we hunker down, we can continue to find and enjoy those havens that, as Caliban so elegantly said in Act III, are ‘full of noises, sounds, and sweet airs, that give delight, and hurt not.’”



Click the photo above for the [WQXR Cafe Concert](#) – a live performance of Paul Moravec’s “Ariel Fantasy,” from *Tempest Fantasy* (2001-02) by Music from Copland House.



## 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).

### **Uncorked (Netflix)**

This is a very sweet Netflix film about a young man’s journey to become a Sommelier. But it’s real---ly about father-son relationships, and the shifting desires of the next generation related to “the family business” (many readers will relate to this, I’m sure). This includes the ability for parents to accept their children’s aspirations. It’s filled with family love, dedication and pride, as well as gorgeous scenes of Paris and yummy food (some great soul food!)... and, of course, the wine! This was perfect to watch before my Zoom cocktail party. Cheers!

## spotlight

# Artist Stories

## in the Times of COVID-19

In these times of social distancing and quarantines, gallery walls are blank, theater seats are empty and stages are bare. That means artists, actors and musicians are out of work for the unforeseeable future. When it's safe to resume our lives, people will want to go on a movie date night, sing along at a concert with friends and sign their children up for dance classes again... but the nonprofit arts industry has been hit hard, with an estimated \$4.5 billion loss as of April 6. Artists of all disciplines have been affected in unsurmountable ways. Here are just a few of their experiences:

“For musicians who are independent contractors, this is a really difficult time. All of my engagements, all of my work in the schools, all of my events that were lined up, have all been cancelled.”

– *Nicolas Carter, harpist (White Plains)*

“I earn my living by teaching ceramics to a wide range of people in a variety of settings. With the advent of COVID-19 and social distancing, I abruptly lost approximately 68% of my income. The only classes I teach online end in May. After that, my income will be zero.”

– *Vicky Youngman, teaching artist (Hastings-on-Hudson)*

“As a teaching artist, I get cut off from my interaction with my beloved audiences. It’s a bummer! Economically, it affects us all, but especially freelancers and teaching artists. We are less protected than most. We are truly vulnerable.”

– Miguel Cassio, teaching artist (New Rochelle)

“My work has come to a screeching halt. Income loss means some bills not getting paid on time. When things do open back up, some or many of the businesses that I once relied on will no longer be around.”

– Barry Mason, photographer (Mount Vernon)

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

has raised more than **\$8,300** 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](#)

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## spotlight



*Historic Photograph of a Camperdown elm tree with a bench (photo courtesy of Lyndhurst)*

# Meandering Through Lyndhurst

*by Howard Zar, Lyndhurst Director*

While our offices are closed and all our programming has been suspended, Lyndhurst has been in a unique position to offer its 67-acre parkland as a place of respite and beauty during this pandemic. This is in keeping with Lyndhurst's history. Lyndhurst was likely constructed in response to the 1832 cholera epidemic in New York City when half the residents fled to the countryside. During World War II, Anna Gould, Duchess of Talleyrand, used Lyndhurst as a place of respite for soldiers from the Brooklyn Navy Yard and the convalescence buildings on the Lyndhurst property were known to sailors as "Club Lyndhurst."

Lyndhurst is a place our neighbors can responsibly access via the Old Croton Aqueduct State Park and the Westchester RiverWalk. On nice days, we're seeing the type of foot traffic that we typically might only see on a summer weekend. Luckily, Lyndhurst is so large that we can accommodate many people

comfortably while still social-distancing. We also want to remind our neighbors that, as always, dogs are welcome.

### **Our Work is Ongoing**

Because half of the Lyndhurst staff lives on property and are dedicated to maintenance and landscape work, working from home still means working on the property. A lot of interior work had been completed just before we needed to suspend activities and most of our landscape work has continued unabated. For veteran Lyndhurst walkers who have enjoyed our trails before, you'll notice quite a bit of activity in the landscape, along new pathways and at the swimming pool building. Here's what we've been able to accomplish:

### **New County Park Pathway Opened**

Those who walk the Old Croton Aqueduct to Lyndhurst from the south will notice a new woodland pathway that is part of the Westchester RiverWalk trail system and leads from the Aqueduct State Park to the new Lyndhurst lower landscape pathways. Just prior to suspension of activities at Lyndhurst, new bollards and signage were placed at the path entries and the pathway was open to visitors. The path follows an existing historic drive that provided vehicular access to four estates, now gone, that used to sit immediately to the south of Lyndhurst. Remnants of those estates, including a stone-lined circular swimming pool, a gatehouse foundation and pachysandra beds from the 1920s, can be seen during visitors' walks. A native meadow mix has been seeded into areas

around the pathway and as trees leaf out with the spring walking, this part of the pathway will feel like a walk in the forest.



*Frederick William MacMonnies 'Boy with Duck' fountain piece, wearing face protection (photo courtesy of Lyndhurst)*

### **Pear Orchard Being Planted**

The recreation of a pear orchard is part of our lower landscape restoration. This orchard is shown on the 1873 estate map and restoring this orchard, along with our existing apple orchard and the future restoration of our kitchen garden, will allow us to highlight the use of the landscape to grow food for the residents of Lyndhurst mansion. The orchard is made up of heirloom varieties common to New York State that include a mix of pears intended for immediate eating, cooking and canning, or extremely hard pears that could overwinter in cold storage. The orchard is being planted with deer fencing and ground cover being installed and planting to follow. Fruit trees come as very small bare root plants, so it will take some time until these trees show their full magnificence. The orchard can best be viewed from the main rockery bench.

### **Camperdown Elm Waiting to be Replanted**

Historically, a magnificent weeping elm tree was planted along the pathway between the second and third rockery. The tree was surrounded by

a hexagonal bench and likely provided views of the river and the pear orchard. The bench has been constructed and will be replanted at Lyndhurst this season. This rare tree has been growing at a local nursery waiting to be planted at Lyndhurst. The hexagonal bench has been constructed and painted the same historic green color as other benches at Lyndhurst. In

## spotlight

the coming weeks, additional soil will be added along the pathway to provide a level seating area and the tree and bench will likely be installed this month.

### Historic Benches Being Constructed

Two wooden benches are being recreated based on historic photographs taken circa 1870. We anticipate that these benches will be completed in May and when done, will be placed in the first and second rockeries. These benches provided shaded seating along the lower landscape pathways. A D-shaped bench was created to encircle a majestic 17th century chestnut tree that was unfortunately lost to a blight early in the 20th century. The green color of the benches is a 19th century historic color based on paint drips that were found on some of the existing rocks in the landscape. In addition to restoring the historic appearance of the estate, the benches will provide additional seating for visitors who are exploring the grounds. We still have one additional bench and the large tree house to recreate. Once these are completed, there will be ample seating along the lower landscape pathways.

### Swimming Pool Building in Initial Phase of Restoration

Lyndhurst's early 20th century swimming pool building, styled as a Roman bath, is the last building on the estate in a state of disrepair. The building is undergoing initial renovations in preparation for a major contemporary art installation. Major elements of repair have been conducted. The roof over the entry has been completely stabilized and

Our objective is to recreate the plantings that appear in historic photographs and maps.

the roof over the swimming pool has been made watertight. Roofing supports have been strengthened. Electrical supply and wiring is being installed. The entry vestibule has been given new supports and sub-flooring and the front doors have been restored. Notably, the historic gravel path leading to the front steps and the gravel perimeter around the swimming pool has been re-installed. Weeds and chain link fence have been removed from around the building and new lawn has been restored. Visitors can now peek in through the front door windows and

see the entry vestibule and get a sense of what the building will look like when it is more fully restored.

### Trees and Shrubs Being Ordered

While we finished installing our new pathways in the lower landscape last year, we are currently planning our first major phase of replanting trees and shrubs in the area. Our objective is to recreate the plantings that appear in historic photographs and maps. Because the property was so extensively documented, we can put back the same species of trees that were originally on the property. Approximately, 80% of the trees and shrubs to be replanted are native species, which will help us to reduce the need for hand care and will create habitat for native fauna.



View of new pathway from mansion veranda (photo courtesy of Lyndhurst)

Taken together, these landscape restorations will result in recreating what these early landscapes would have looked like and how people used them when it was believed that the outdoors and fresh air were curative. Ironically, we have come full circle as we see people coming to Lyndhurst for a safe respite and to enjoy nature without jeopardizing their safety. Our community is availing itself of these landscape improvements during a time when passive outdoor recreations is one of the few safe distractions.

### **We're Preparing for the Day We Can Reopen**

We invite you to take a restful walk through Lyndhurst in the coming weeks to see some of the progress we're making. Some of the work

you won't see is the activity of our staff, who are working from home and preparing two exhibitions that will open as soon as allowable. As noted above, the swimming pool building will be the site of *Watershed*, a contemporary art installation and the first public use of the swimming pool building for a Lyndhurst exhibition. In our exhibition gallery, the exhibition *Three Parlors: Treasures from the Attic*, will highlight pieces of Lyndhurst's collection that are usually in storage as well as many acquisitions and donations we've received over the past five years.



## spotlight

# Cultural Leaders Talk About the Effects of COVID-19

by Janet Langsam, ArtsWestchester CEO

## A Nimble Theater Guy Ponders the Future

Elliot Fox strides into his empty theater on a recent coronavirus day. He's never seen it so forlorn. No sounds of clapping. It's empty for the fourth week in a row. During those four weeks, between March and May, he has incredulously cancelled or postponed 72 performances. Now that Governor Cuomo has hit the New York State "pause button" for another month, he's thinking: "What do I do about June?" He reminisces. In the three or four years since he took over direction of the Emelin Theatre in Mamaroneck, N.Y., the place has been hopping. "We've been on a strong trajectory –ticket sales have hit a new level each season. New programs, new audiences, new members, all were on the rise." The Emelin presents two film clubs, some 30 partnerships with schools and community organizations and

a lively menu of music, dance, comedy and theatrical performances. Now, working remotely with reduced staff, he is juggling and rescheduling performances and hanging on tight as this COVID-19 wind blows through Westchester. What seemed to many to be a short term disruption is now looking like a much longer process.

As he turns his thoughts to the recovery, he wonders: Will there

be a recovery? When will it come?

Will we still need social distancing?

His mind races ahead to September,

October. Like many arts leaders, he

wonders what the new normal will

look like. The uncertainty prompts

him to count the seats in the Emelin

Theatre...275, just as he thought. He

ponders whether social distancing

will continue to keep audiences six

feet apart. Under those rules, he

estimates the theater could seat 60

to 100 people.... The looming length

of the COVID-19 crisis is prompting

theater professionals like Fox to

rethink the financial model of small arts

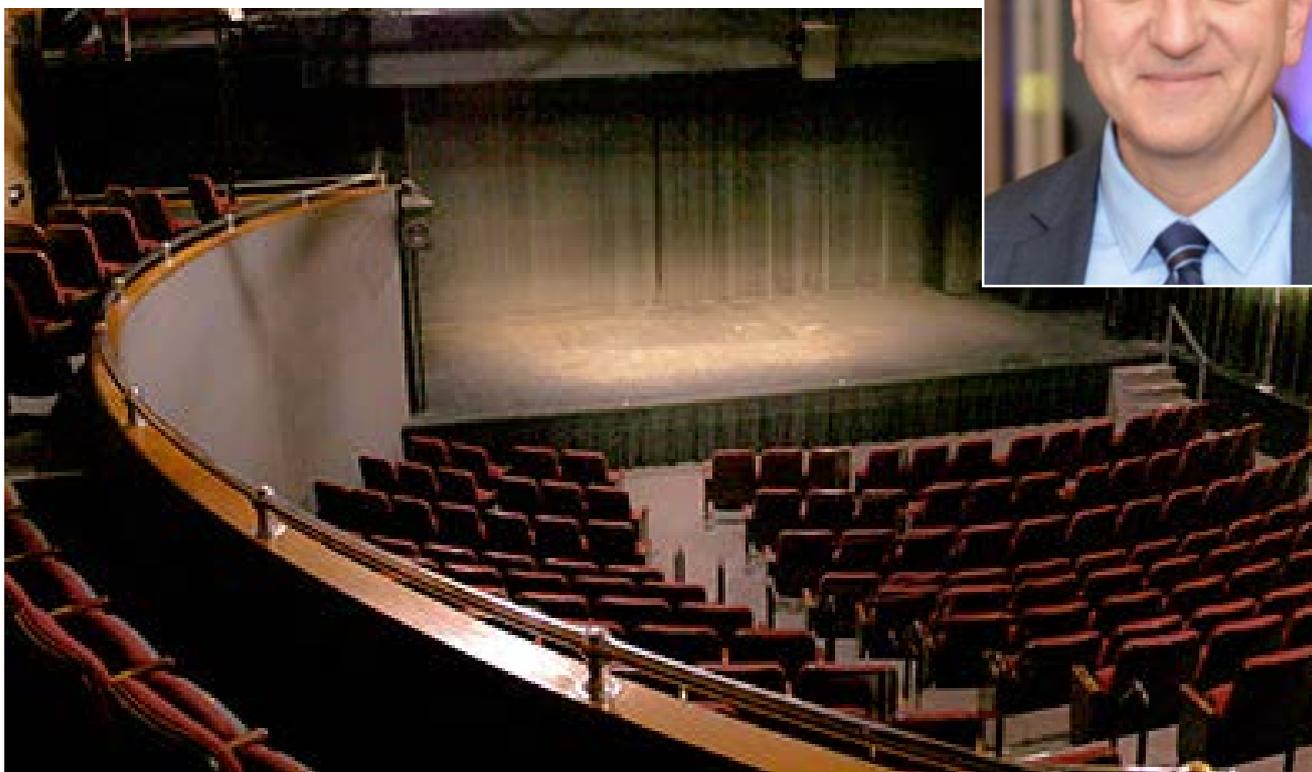
centers. Survival will favor the nimble

and their ability to shift gears quickly to

suit the new environment, he concludes.

But Elliot Fox holds onto the glimmer of

hope that: "In tough times, art survives."



Left photo: Emelin Theatre, Right photo: Elliot Fox

# A Hamlet Sort of Moment

Jeff Haydon is in a contemplative sort of mood. As CEO of the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, he is pondering a momentous decision. Every summer since 1945, there has been a music festival at its 90-acre property in Katonah, N.Y., 50 miles north of New York City. Caramoor's renowned music festival brings music lovers to Westchester from distant places. Now as Jeff Haydon watches the daily coronavirus updates, he struggles to determine whether this year's eagerly anticipated concert season is "to be or not to be."

Summer is fast approaching, and Haydon and his staff have been planning for the past three years for its 75th anniversary season which is set to feature opera, classical music, jazz, world music and American Roots traditions in the 1,800-seat Venetian Theater and its 500-seat Spanish Courtyard. However, the uncertainty over how long the COVID-19 crisis will last, and the taboo on gatherings of all kinds, has required Haydon to do what he always tries to do – think creatively. This year, in the midst of this pandemic, he is noodling several different options for continuing, shrinking or rethinking the festival. Fortunately, he has options. Since his arrival at Caramoor some seven years ago, Haydon has worked with his board to foster year-round performances at a variety of spaces on the property, including the Music Room of the Rosen House and throughout the gardens. There's also more to see and do now at Caramoor than when Lucie and Walter Rosen first donated the estate for a cultural center. While the festival is the highlight of the summer season in Westchester, the gardens have become more spectacular than ever, and there are public art sound



*Jeff Haydon and Janet Langsam at Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts (photo credit: Gabe Palacio)*

sculptures to be seen, as well. And, there is an exciting master plan in the works that will turn the Center into a major outdoor destination.

Cultural leaders throughout America are facing similar heart-wrenching decisions about their programs. Can we keep doing what we've been doing? Or, is this a time to leverage our creativity to revive our cultural life in new ways? Last, can cultural leaders find new ways to balance the needs and hopes of audiences, donors, artists and the loyal crew of stage hands and producers? Jeff Haydon believes we can, through creative stewardship and newly imagined partnerships. "While the tendency is to solely focus on the financial challenges, we have to remember that the arts provide inspiration all of us need in times of crises – we just have to be more creative in how we reach our audiences."

Artist Oscar Lett at work on a street mural in White Plains, NY. Photo by Will Bermingham, 2019

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