

ARTSNEWS

OCTOBER 2020



Lady Liberty Celebrates **100 Years of Women's Suffrage**

Illustration created for ArtsWestchester's Give Us The Vote 2017 exhibition by Alfredo Ponce

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Westchester gov.com **From the County Executive**

Dear Readers,

Thank you for taking a few moments to read this fall edition of ArtsNews. As the temperatures cool down and the leaves begin to turn colors and fall, I want to encourage all of you to enjoy the many events

that our local arts groups have to offer both online and in person across Westchester County. Over the past several months, many arts events were forced to be canceled or postponed in the wake of the pandemic. But, as we do our best to manage the impacts of Coronavirus, we are making great strides towards rebuilding our County back to what it was before. There are plenty of in-person and virtual arts happenings for you to explore. This fall, ArtsWestchester will be providing a robust schedule of strong programming offered by arts groups throughout the County, including:

- an array of fall arts classes (see page A14)
- Westchester's annual Jack O'Lantern Blaze tradition (see page A16)
- a robust lineup of livestreamed music performances (see page A20)

I encourage all of you to take a few moments of respite, and participate in these wonderful opportunities if you can. As Westchester County makes its return to "normal," remember that 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.

Sincerely,
George Latimer

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

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(photo credit: Cathy Pinsky)

FROM THE CEO

by Janet Langsam,
ArtsWestchester CEO

COVID and Me and the Flu of 1918

The flu epidemic of 1918 was not a story that was taught in every classroom in America. But for me, it was personal. I was named Janet Frances after my father's mother Frances, my grandmother whom I never met because she died tragically in the flu epidemic of 1918, long before I was born. Perhaps that is why I know almost nothing about her other than what, for me, was the scary part. Families like mine tend to hide their trauma in unspoken silences, which only later seem to leak out incidentally and without context. So it was that, as a ten-year-old, I learned that Grandma Fanny as she was called, was not the only family member who died in 1918. I learned at the time that my father had a sister, Clara, whom he never talked about, only to say that she was closest in age to him in the family pecking order. Clara also died next to her mother during that tragic epidemic in 1918. She was only ten. Until COVID-19, I hadn't thought much about Clara for many years. For me, Clara was a symbol of my own fragility, which was not something to dwell on. However, the recent dialogue about whether COVID was deadly for children brought it all back, including the annual visits to Clara's tiny headstone next to her mother's at Mt. Judah Cemetery. I wondered anew whether my older brother Charles was named for Clara. I will never know. I wondered anew whether there had been time to mourn a mother and child during a pandemic. So swift was the loss. So quickly were the remaining three children shuttled off to their mother's relatives in Pittsburgh. Perhaps the end of life was a less harsh reality than how to go on, how to manage survival for a family altered forever by a disease not of their making. This, no doubt, will be one of the 200,000 stories that will be told about the current COVID crisis.



Janet Langsam's family before the flu epidemic of 1918

➔ Don't miss Janet's weekly blog posts at:
thisandthatbyjl.com

feature



Putting Our Best Foot Forward

by Mary Alice Franklin, ArtsNews Editor

For most performing arts organizations, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in either a “virtual” fall season, or no season at all. However, for the Performing Arts Center at Purchase College (PAC), it will mean the creation of new works.

In March, arts organizations found themselves canceling and replanning events due to COVID-19. Fast-forward to October: indoor events are still not permitted by New York State. Ultimately, PAC canceled their 2020 fall season as well. Rather than planning and replanning events, they decided to shift focus. Director Seth Soloway’s vision for the Center is for it to operate not only as a presenter of events, but also as a maker of new works. This was true before the pandemic. So with a schedule that operates three-to-four years in advance, this is a process that PAC has been able to nurture, even during the past several months.

Roadblocks and Hurdles

Of course, like many other arts organizations, PAC has faced its fair share of hiccups along the way. Scheduled commissions didn’t get their premiere last season. During the canceled fall season, more works-in-development will sadly miss their premieres. Yet more works set for the future are also lacking a timeline. These commissions will still turn into public presentations once things pick up – given the

availability of artists. Soloway laments: “Some of these companies may not even be here anymore when the dust settles.”

Bringing the Process to Life

In non-COVID times, artists who have been commissioned for new works, often choreographers, come to the Purchase campus and stay for several weeks. While there, they engage with the students and community as they create their new piece. “Having artists come in at 3pm, have a sound check and do a performance before leaving just didn’t feel responsible...PAC is uniquely positioned to provide more, and to give students a means of feeling like a community,” Soloway explains. Instead of a hit-and-run approach, at PAC the artists stay.

Typically, commissioned artists participate in master classes, Q&As, and open rehearsals, all of which give rich context to the work that is being created. Last season, choreographer Doug Varone even used students from the school’s Conservatory of Dance in his final performance. These engagement-based activities all bring the art-making process to PAC rather than only the final, polished performance.

In March, Soloway was left asking: “How does a performing arts center build that same type of relationship with these artists virtually?” Luckily, the groundwork had been laid out for them. “Many of the



at Hall at Performing Arts Center at Purchase College (photo credit: Pan Smaller)

activities we would do in person could easily be replicated for an online platform. We had built relationships with several artists already, so that's how we started to pivot," he explains. The Center brought online its "PAC in Your Living Room" series, which aims to create that "means of feeling like a community" that Soloway mentioned. It provides curated content, live interviews and glimpses into artists' processes.

Engaging the Community in the Time of COVID and Beyond

Soloway praised ArtsWestchester for being "the first to step up" when it came to adjusting the terms of their Project Support grant. Working hand-in-hand with the organization, they were able to adjust the terms of the grant in order to make existing virtual programs more robust. With the awarded funds, they will be able to extend the relationships they've developed, which will allow them to hit the ground running once things go back to "normal."

The PAC will focus heavily on providing community engagement-based content for virtual platforms this fall. Their plan is to build up their artistic partnerships to a place where they can slowly bring



Victor Quijada during a previous rehearsal with Purchase College students (photo credit: Lou Vaccaro)

artists – like Victor Quijada and John Higginbotham – back to campus. This will allow them to create commissioned projects that PAC can eventually share with the public. The hope is for the Center, and the artists, to be ready to return in the spring.

"I had to think through how to prepare for the unknown. So my goal is to just make sure that, in some form, we're ready to do the things that are most core to who we are. It will probably take us a while to have a full slate of programming again, but if we can at least have our commissions in the hopper, and we can come back slowly with something significant, then I'll feel like we've put our best foot forward."

VIRTUAL SAVE THE DATE

ARTSWESTCHESTER

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New Ridge Hill Mural Pays Tribute to a Jazz Icon

by Megan Thomson-Connor

Rendering provided by the artist

This summer, Ridge Hill Shopping Center in Yonkers commissioned two new murals on the Center's property, and there's more to come. A new mural in the works is an ode to American jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald. Why Ella? For those who don't know, Ella Fitzgerald, although born in Virginia, grew up in Yonkers. Hence why there is a street named after her at the Shopping Center. In fact, the new 12' x 25' mural will be on Fitzgerald Street.

The painter and muralist behind the project is Brooklyn artist Danielle Mastrion. Mastrion is a classically trained oil painter who traded her brushes in for spray cans. She has painted murals nationally and internationally since 2012. Her first significant spray paint mural, a portrait of Beastie Boys singer MCA, was at 5 Pointz, the former iconic Queens property that welcomed graffiti and street artists from across the globe. Her "Biggie" mural, now almost ten years old, is the longest-standing mural at the Bushwick Collective, a street art project in Brooklyn.

Mastrion's portrait murals are colorful and surreal in style, a reflection of working in New York's urban landscape."

Ella, dubbed the "First Lady of Song," spent her childhood in the 1920s living on School Street in Yonkers before moving to Harlem after her mother's death. A century later at Ridge Hill, Mastrion's Ella Fitzgerald portrait will celebrate the iconic singer. The mural will be next to the work of Queen Andrea, who recently completed the other two commissioned murals at the Center. When Mastrion was just

starting out, it was Queen Andrea who recommended her for projects. Now Mastrion has an impressive resume of her own.

Mastrion's portrait murals are colorful and surreal in style, a reflection of working in New York's urban landscape. Many of her works also have social justice themes, focusing on women.

This summer, she painted a mural of Breonna Taylor, Gianna Floyd and Harriet Tubman at the annual Hudson Sankofa Black Arts & Cultural Festival. Mastrion has been dreaming of painting Ella for a long time and the finished mural will be on view early this month.

spotlight

VOTING RIGHTS:

100 Years After the 19th Amendment

by Kathleen Reckling,
Deputy Director of
Public Programs,
ArtsWestchester



High above the heads of visitors in ArtsWestchester's gallery is a vibrant mural that exalts the pivotal role White Plains played in the American Revolution. In the foreground are two female figures: Freedom, who holds an American flag, and Liberty, who holds the flag of the City of White Plains. In her right hand, Liberty also holds a partially drawn sword, ready to wage battles in the name of democracy. The mural is a stunning and key artistic feature of ArtsWestchester's public exhibition space, so it's no wonder the figure of Liberty was a natural inspiration for the "cover girl" of its 2017 exhibition, *Give Us the Vote*. The exhibition of contemporary art celebrated those who continue to fight in order to protect the ballot box and, in turn, American democracy.

Give Us the Vote was inspired by the centennial of the victory for women's suffrage in New York State, and was made possible through a major grant from the New York State Council for the Arts. Artists from across New York State

were invited to make new works that explored the ongoing history of voting rights in America. Three years later, America is in the midst of another election year, and ArtsWestchester has once again asked artists to consider the act and power of voting. The resulting *Give Us the Vote 2020* is a virtual exhibition that includes works made for the original 2017 exhibition along with new works that have been identified for a digital experience.

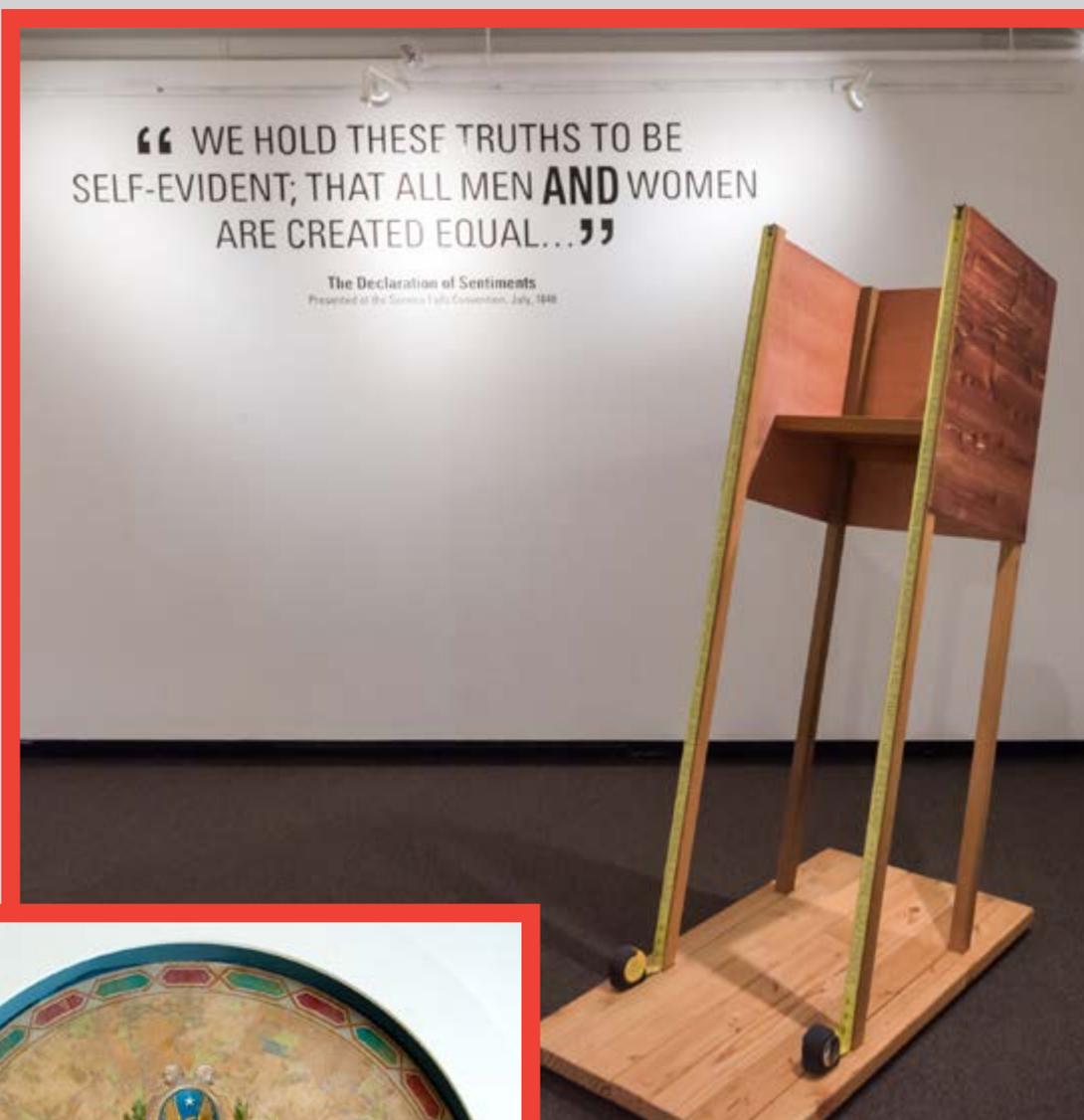
Voting Booth for Fannie Lou Hamer by Peekskill artist Carla Rae Johnson was created for the original exhibition. The poignant and powerful sculpture is the artist's rendering of a voting booth, leaning at a precarious angle. The work, made from simple materials, is an homage to Hamer, a formidable 1960s Civil Rights leader who declared that she was "...fully prepared to fall five-feet, four-inches forward in the fight for freedom."

Ann Lewis's *A Series of Unethical Acts* paintings are seductively abstract works on paper that appear fluid in material and random in form. In fact, these are not abstractions at all, but deliberate works that depict actual voting districts in Michigan, Wisconsin, North Carolina and Maryland. The set of four ink paintings, which are reminiscent of Rorschach tests, broach a discussion about gerrymandering, or the act of drawing voting districts to favor one group over others.



Among the new works in the virtual exhibition is *You May No Longer Be Registered to Vote (1)*, by Hastings artist Gina Randazzo. The image is one in a series that documents the postcard-writing that the artist has done with Reclaim Our Vote, a campaign that empowers voters of color in states that are experiencing high degrees of voter suppression. Surrounded by a dark black space, the stack of postcards, each of which represents a voter who has been marginalized, has been placed in a symbolic void. The work is simultaneously a reminder that populations remain disenfranchised and also of the power we each have to elevate forgotten voices.

Give Us the Vote 2020 will open online in late October, a few days ahead of when early voting begins in Westchester County. The story of American democracy is the story of a living, breathing thing that sometimes thrives, and sometimes struggles to survive. Everyone plays a part in shaping its existence. Each election cycle reveals remaining disenfranchised populations, raises controversy about who should, can and does vote, and activates investigations into how votes are cast and counted. The artwork in this exhibition is a call to action – not just in 2020, but in 2022, 2024... 2776, and beyond.



Voting Booth for Fannie Lou Hamer by Carla Rae Johnson (photo credit: Margaret Fox)



Mural of Lady Justice and Lady Liberty in ArtsWestchester's gallery

Advocacy for the Arts Begins at the Ballot Box!

If you wish to vote in person in Westchester County, you can vote early or on Election Day. Early voting begins on October 24, and Election Day is November 3. Don't forget that your usual polling place may have changed as a result of COVID-19 health precautions. For voting locations and times, visit the County's Board of Elections [website](#).

spotlight



A WATERSHED MOMENT ON THE HORIZON

by Janet T. Langsam, CEO, ArtsWestchester

What is a watershed moment? It is a turning point. It is a defining moment at which change alters the direction of a situation. It is a dividing point, from which things will never be the same. It is momentous.

So what does artist Jorge Otero-Pailos have in mind when he fills a cavernous ruin—the historic pool house at Lyndhurst—with suspended sheets of latex that hold the dust and peeling from its weathered walls and turns it into a contemplative space? He reveals the past life of the space in sculptural latex tapestries dangling them throughout this vast resounding space like antique curtains. In doing so, he has created an art project that is meant to be a place for reflection—a place to which you can bring your personal and national memories

and traumas. And, just like droplets over time may build to a tide, reflection of your experiences may beget an apocryphal moment and what is to come. Can a work of art do that? Perhaps.

Imagine a ruin. The old and frayed indoor pool at the Lyndhurst which is in a state of deterioration. It is as it was left at the end of World War II – leaking, peeling; a ruin in every sense of the word. Time has made it an extravagant relic of the Gilded Age. It is no longer gilded. Nor is it for what its purpose once was years ago. It has aged over time and its flaws are part of its credibility.



I began talking with artist Jorge Otero-Pailos about ruins and his artistic intervention which he calls *Watershed Moment*. He says: "Indeed, we are all living in a watershed moment" and he sees this very site specific art installation on the edge of the Hudson River as a transformational opportunity. "This is the place. This is the moment," says the artist. "This is the time to think deeply and in a personal way about the transformation that may be upon us."

An artist and preservationist, Otero-Pailos urges us to think poetically and not just politically about this moment. He has built a temple in which to do that. He invites us to this temple to experience a ruin – something that has been abandoned, empty disheveled. It needs no interpretation. It is something that is no longer what it once was. It is now simply a shed for water and the sounds of water that the artist has collected, from Niagara Falls to the Hudson River, and released into the void.

How did this artist's journey lead him to this abandoned ruin? "Since Charlottesville, since Brexit, since Covid," Otero-Pailos has been listening to how the world has changed. He has been thinking about the river that runs both ways. "We are suspended in our homes. Society is suspended. Being suspended is a metaphor for our time. Paradoxically, being in our homes has heightened our awareness about climate change and social justice." Otero-Pailos believes strongly that we are in a watershed moment which we can choose to think about artistically, or perhaps poetically, but not just politically. "It is an opportunity to think about parallel possibilities. I think we are in a moment of transformation. We can't ignore it."

(photo credit: Emma Gencarelli)

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Artist Jorge Otero-Pailos working on *Watershed Moment* (photo courtesy of Lyndhurst Mansion)

spotlight



Oh, the Possibilities

by Mary Alice Franklin, ArtsNews Editor

Hudson Valley Writers Center in Sleepy Hollow

When COVID-19 arrived, [Hudson Valley Writers Center](#) (HVWC) shifted its programming to an online platform at a moment's notice. The result was a rich schedule of programs that expanded its audience. Programs Director Jennifer Franklin explains: "[When the state-mandated lockdown began], I wanted to make sure we had robust programming in place, so I worked hours into the night for the first couple of months." Franklin reached out to old friends, writers with whom the center had relationships, and authors both near and far. She adds: "I also felt obligated to try to help those who lost teaching opportunities or became unemployed due to the pandemic."

One-day classes exploded with interest. The Center's audiences at readings more than doubled. "Now people know what is possible with Zoom, but in the beginning, they didn't. Our audience really took a leap with us," says Franklin. That audience, she says, consisted of the Center's dedicated "regulars," as well as a subset of individuals who are younger than their typical demographic. It also included an array of people that HVWC was not able to accommodate previously, whether because of an individual's disability, their lack of transportation, or because they lived too far away to visit. In fact, new audience members tuned in online from Australia, Paris and Canada.

Explains Franklin: "The pandemic has had people seeking out the arts more than ever... So much of it is free, including our readings, so it's been a real solace for people."

A recent donation of \$10,000, which HVWC set aside for a new set of scholarships, also helped the center to expand its reach. The new Altman Persons of Color Scholarships reserve two free spots for people of color in each one-day class they offer. These spots are typically claimed within a day or two, sometimes within hours. Says General Manager Krista Madsen: "These scholarships bring in people who otherwise may not have been [at the Center]. We're working to develop a need-based scholarship next."

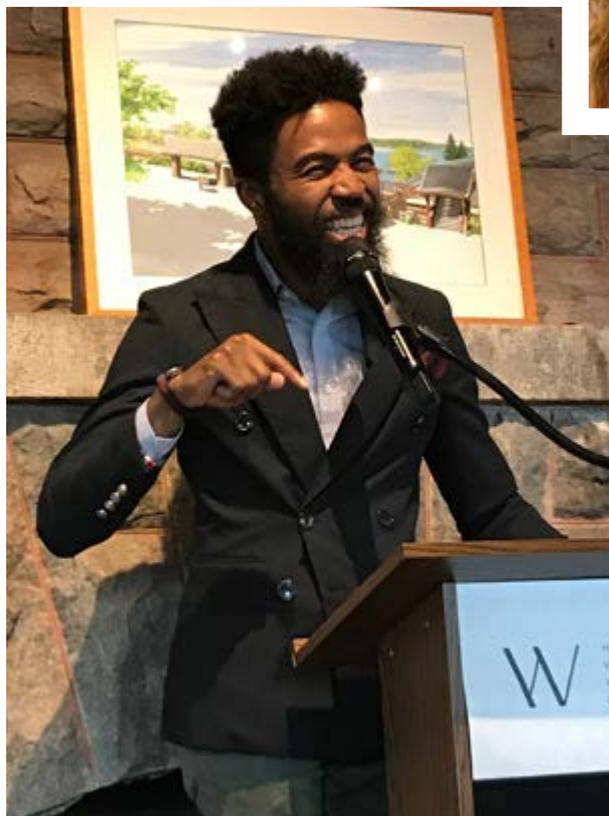
HVWC's audience wasn't the only asset to grow during recent events. The lineup of writers that the Center has been able to present also expanded. Zeeshan Pathan will read live from Turkey via Zoom on October 9. That event will also include Diannely Antigua, and Joshua Bennett, whose roots are much closer to home. The award-winning writer grew up in Yonkers and will return for the launch of his second book. Meanwhile, accomplished poet and essayist Chen Chen did a reading at HVWC, but hadn't been able to travel from Boston to teach a class. Now Chen will teach "The Art of Telling" on October 4, also



Toi Derricotte



Christina Chiu



Joshua Bennett



Maya Phillips

via Zoom. Other readers have participated from Trinidad, London and across the United States.

Franklin remembers reading about the way many works created during the 1918 flu epidemic were not properly documented: "I don't think that will happen this time, but even if it does, [the arts] are sustaining people now, in the moment... During this time of upheaval and uncertainty, we look to literature to remind us we are not alone and to help us understand ourselves and empathize with others. We

hope people leave our readings inspired."

Upon considering whether HVWC will continue online offerings once the Center officially reopens, Madsen said that, for her, the answer is obvious: "A resounding yes."

This may be in the form of online classes, or maybe recordings or livestreams of in-person readings. She adds: "When we can return [in person to the Center], we want to keep providing something for all of these new people who are part of our community now."

spotlight

As Fall Classes Resume, The Arts Flex Their (Virtual) Muscles

by Susan Abbott, Director of Grant Programs, ArtsWestchester

While fall is back-to-school season, class is also back in session for arts organizations throughout Westchester. Since March, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, arts groups have been pivoting time and again. However, as autumn approaches, arts classes will commence, in one form or another.

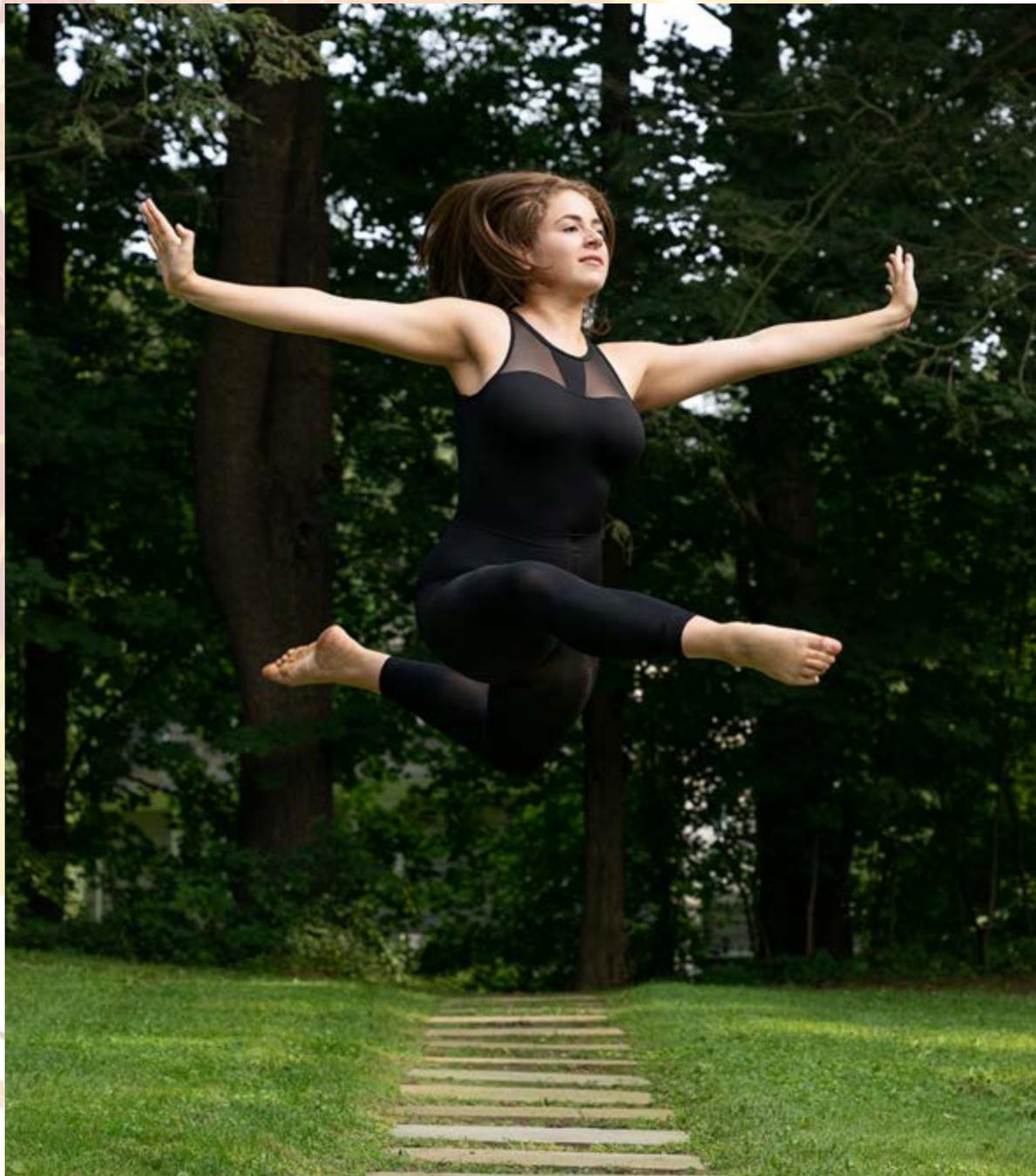
In some cases, the educational offerings have even expanded. Students, no matter their comfort level, can find ways to brush up on their artistic skills in the coming months, and support their local arts organization at the same time.

In the weeks following the State-mandated lockdown, arts organizations quickly moved their programming to online platforms. Arc Stages for instance, despite having never offered virtual classes, transitioned an extensive roster of classes online. According to Executive Director Adam Cohen, they did so without losing a single session. For the fall, the theater will return to its on-site theater classes with safety protocols in place.

"You can teach any instrument virtually and it works quite well – as long as you have a strong WiFi signal, the right Zoom audio settings and reasonably up-to-date equipment," says Jean Newton, Executive Director of the Music Conservatory of Westchester, who is offering

both virtual and on-site lessons this fall, based on each student and teacher's comfort level, in addition to private lessons.

Flexibility has been an ongoing necessity for organizations as peoples' needs continue to shift from one month to the next. Organizations have needed to adjust on-the-fly. In March, Steffi Nossen School of Dance (SNSD), which is housed in the same building as the Music Conservatory in White Plains, offered pre-recorded classes as well as live sessions via Zoom. However, they found that the live Zoom classes were more successful. This was especially true for younger students. According to Judy Ross, Community Relations Director, the live Zoom classes allow for a greater level of interaction and flexibility



A student from Steffi Nossen School of Dance (photo credit: Ellen Crane)

for those with a shorter attention span. "It is very hard to teach dance without touching, but the teachers are amazingly creative," she explains. This fall, SNSD will begin with a virtual class schedule, which will include some outdoor in-person community classes in order to establish relationships between faculty and dancers. The school year will be divided into three 10-week sessions. After each session, plans will be re-evaluated with health and safety guidelines in mind.

Pelham Art Center has recently welcomed back students in person. Says Executive Director Charlotte Mouquin: "We want to be able to create opportunities for artists, and [want] people to be able to learn about art. We will be here on the other side of this. We are here and we're not going anywhere." The Center opened its doors to students at its physical location for its fall semester, but also offers private

bookings that can take place on-location or at students' homes.

Even though some organizations are moving to in-person or hybrid, many of them have come to understand the benefits of virtual offerings. Many organizations have reported that both their audiences and artist rosters have expanded as a result of their virtual offerings. Lauren Fofana, Managing Director of Youth Theatre Interactions explains: "We had one family where everyone was participating [via Zoom]... the mom, dad, everyone; they all did African dance... There are people in remote areas who don't have access to acting lessons or ballet classes, so [the reach of virtual classes] is limitless. A friend even sent [our class link] to a friend in South Africa."

For upcoming fall classes, check the October Arts Offerings listed on page A24 or [click here](#).



A socially distanced art class taking place at Pelham Art Center (photo credit: Alex Hernandez)

spotlight

THE GREAT JACK O' LANTERN

by Michelle Falkenstein

Cheryl Bernstein is the only full-time art pumpkin carver for [The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze](#)—six other carvers are part-time or seasonal. Bernstein says she carves a thousand new art pumpkins each year for the annual event, which is held at Van Cortland Manor in Croton-On-Hudson. Art pumpkins are made from hard foam, and the Blaze uses a staggering 7,000 of them to create their extravagant displays.

"With anything intricate, we can't use real pumpkins because they get soft and they're too heavy," Bernstein says. "Real pumpkins weigh 30 pounds. You can't hang them. And they will ooze goo on people." The art pumpkins are supplied by a Colorado-based company called Fun-Kins, which uses molds cast from real pumpkins.

Bernstein, who majored in studio art at Queens College, has been carving foam pumpkins for the Blaze since its inception in 2005. She says she enjoys working on the finer, more intricate designs, such as Celtic knots, which she cuts out with an X-acto knife.

The fall event is organized by Historic Hudson Valley, a nonprofit cultural organization founded in 1951 as Sleepy Hollow Restorations by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Each fall, Blaze visitors stroll a path through mountainous scenes constructed entirely of pumpkins. This year's show features several new exhibits, including a fire truck and ambulance responding to a call, a Hansel and Gretel house, and witches stirring their brew. Old favorites like the Pumpkin Carousel, Windmill and a 25-foot-tall Statue of Liberty are also on view. The astronomically minded can visit the Pumpkin Planetarium for a pumpkin star show.

In addition to the art pumpkins, the Blaze uses 9,000 real pumpkins for ground displays over the show's three-month run. These pumpkins must be replaced once a week and sometimes more often, depending on the weather—if it gets too hot, they rot more quickly. This year, temporary workers will scoop and carve the live pumpkins, along with Historic Hudson Valley employees. The job is usually done by a fleet of volunteers, but due to COVID-19, they will not be able to participate this year.



Pumpkin carousel installation at The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze (photo credit: Tom Nycz for Historic Hudson Valley)

ERN BLAZE

The real pumpkins are of the Howden variety, traditionally used at Halloween. They are grown on family-run Walkill View Farm in New Paltz and shipped on nine flatbed trucks. The farm also provides hay and corn stalks for the Blaze.

In 2005, Bernstein was working as a historical interpreter at Van Cortland Manor, demonstrating how to hand-tie fishing nets, spin wool and make brooms, when she was invited to participate



This page: pumpkins carved by Cheryl Bernstein (photos courtesy of the artist)

Bernstein's four grandchildren also get in on the act, helping to light the candles in the live pumpkins. "When my grandson was four, he told guests to stay away from the candles," she says.

Last year, said Bernstein, she took a few seeds home and planted her own pumpkins. "They took over my yard," she says. "I learned my lesson."

As for eating pumpkin in any shape or form, even pie, Bernstein is emphatic: no way. "I don't even eat anything orange," she says.

in a new fundraising event for Halloween. "I never thought I would be carving pumpkins full-time, but I love what I'm doing," she says.

Because of COVID-19, all visitors to this year's event must purchase a ticket in advance—there will be no tickets sold on site. Capacity has been limited to allow for social distancing, and everyone must wear masks. The dates of operation are through Oct. 31, as well as Nov. 1, 6-8, 13-15 and 20-21. Proceeds will support the programs of Historic Hudson Valley.

The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze Long Island

This year, Old Bethpage Village Restoration (OBVR) in Long Island will host Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze for the first time. More than two-dozen professionally lit displays will feature illuminated and individually hand-carved jack o' lanterns throughout the landscape of OBVR. Included will be site-specific installations such as NASA's Lunar Module and a 12-foot tall 'Welcome to Long Island' postcard.

spotlight



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.

An American Pickle

(Available on Netflix)

A sweet movie (or rather "sour" – after all, we are talking about pickles) about the "old country" meeting current day. A great-grandpa awakens in Brooklyn (where else?) in a vat of pickles after 100 years. It is then that he unites with his great-grandson. In the movie, family expectations, entrepreneurial spirit, jealousy, religious identity and self-discovery all emerge in a cleverly acted story that features Seth Rogen, who byplays between the generations.



Promo still from An American Pickle (photo credit: Hopper Stone)



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Illuminating Bannerman Island

by Rocio De La Roca

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, an innovative mentorship program will bring music, world-class artists and local youth to Hudson Valley's Bannerman Island this fall.

Presented by the Daisy Jopling Music Mentorship Foundation (DJMMF), which was founded by classical and rock violinist Daisy Jopling and the Bannerman Castle Trust (BCF), a selection of hybrid mentorships – meaning they will take place both in-person and virtually – will enable young students to develop and perform all aspects of a series of upcoming concerts. The performances, titled "[Illuminance](#)," will take place on Bannerman Island through October 4 and will benefit both the Foundation, as well as the Trust, which was created to conserve the island.

The mentorship programs explore diverse topics, including stage management, marketing, lighting design, sound engineering, moonlight photography, drawing, body percussion, dance choreography and musical performance. Students, using the skills learned during their mentorship, will incorporate their new skills into different aspects of the "Illuminance" concerts.

Jopling and artist/educator Thom Johnson, one of the founders of the Bannerman Castle Trust, created the mentorship program to provide students with opportunities in a unique environment. Jopling explains: "Thom felt a project involving students would be perfectly in line with Frank Francis Bannerman IV's ideals. Bannerman, who built the fantasy-like castle on the island, used to invite kids to the island to spend a wonderful day outside the city."

"The program is unique in that it allows students to meet and work alongside world-class artists who have many years of experience," explains Jopling, who is also DJMMF's Creative Director. For instance, twenty-five students will learn about large-scale lighting design and production with Emmy Award-winner Deke Hazirjian, who is creating a light show on Bannerman Castle and is lighting the musical performances. This mentorship, which consists of both Zoom and in-person lessons, will give students hands-on experience as they

assist Hazirjian in setting up the show's lighting equipment on the island.

Another mentorship has three students working with dancer, performing artist and Peekskill resident Belle Ritter, who will guide them in creating their own dance choreography. A workshop on moonlight photography with fine art photographer Gabriel Biderman will take place on Bannerman Island during and after one of the performances. Twelve other students are taking art and drawing classes with Johnson. To ensure the safety of all the students, mask-wearing and social distancing will be enforced during the rehearsals, workshops and mentorships leading up to the performance.

For Jopling, this mentorship program gives students the skills, knowledge and confidence to pursue their dreams and goals. She explains: "This opportunity for the students leads to life-changing doors opening for them, not only from the contacts they make, but also in what they see possible for their futures."



Daisy Jopling and Bannerman Castle (photos courtesy of Daisy Jopling)

spotlight

This Fall, Music Arrives in Your Living Room

As the leaves change color and a gentle breeze blows, it is a ritual among many to begin marking their calendars for the fall season. In a non-COVID world, guitars would be tuned backstage, violin bows would be rubbed with resin, and music would soon fill the theater. This year, it will fill homes throughout Westchester instead. For the time being, while New York State guidelines do not yet permit indoor performances, organizations are trading in the stage for streaming platforms – but the music will play on.

For now, music lovers can line their calendars with a robust schedule of livestreams, and recordings from groups throughout the County. **Tarrytown Music Hall's** "Night In With the Music Hall" continues this fall with live weekly streams, including acoustic-based rock/pop band Skyfactor on 10/7. Folk singer-songwriter Peter Calo, presented by **The Schoolhouse Theater**, will perform a livestreaming event on 10/11.

Jazz aficionados can tune in to **Jazz Forum Arts's** weekly "Jazz Forum @ Home" Facebook Live series for concerts presented from artists' homes every Thursday evening. Meanwhile, **Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts** has announced a virtual season that includes jazz as well: Aaron Diehl Trio returns to Caramoor in a concert presented in collaboration with Jazz at Lincoln Center (10/16). The season also includes vocal, cabaret and classical performances.

In fact, orchestral concerts are aplenty this fall season. The **Westchester Chamber Music Society** will stream a live performance by much-sought-after The Dover String Quartet with a program that includes Haydn and Dvorak on (10/18). **Hudson Valley Music Club**, for its 96th year, will share recordings on its YouTube channel, including performances by their student

award winners. Throughout its virtual fall season, **Friends of Music Concerts** will offer five recordings by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, each for a period of five days. The schedule includes pianists Alessio Bax and Lucille Chung (10/10) and violinist Cho-Liang Lin (10/24).

During **Copland House's** new virtual performance and conversation series, "UNDERSCORED," Graduate Center Doctoral candidates will join the Music from Copland House ensemble to offer premieres, revivals and classics by American composers. Each program zeros in on a single work, which will be performed after a conversation and before a live Q&A with the viewers. The first programs appropriately look at works by Aaron Copland: *Sonata for Violin and Piano* (10/13) and *Quartet for Piano and Strings* (10/26).

Members of **Westchester Oratorio Society** are exercising their vocal chords already during socially distanced rehearsals for its upcoming fall repertoire, which will include Fauré, Brahms and a virtual seasonal *Messiah* sing-along.



Aaron Diehl (photo courtesy of Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts)



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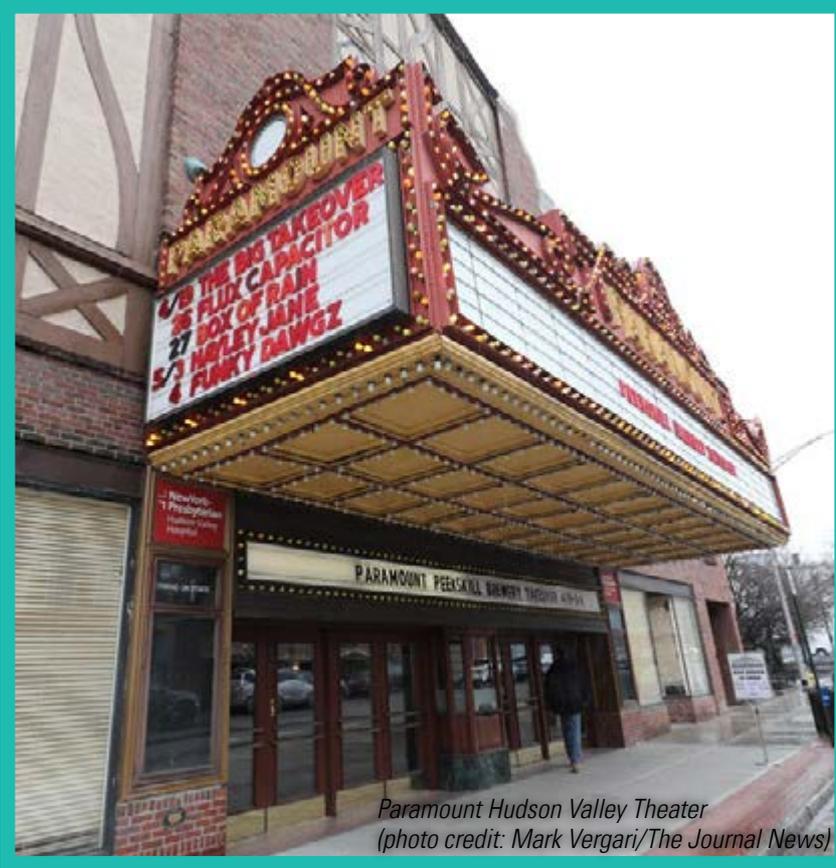


news briefs

NEWS BRIEFS

Applications Open for Annual Rutsch Award

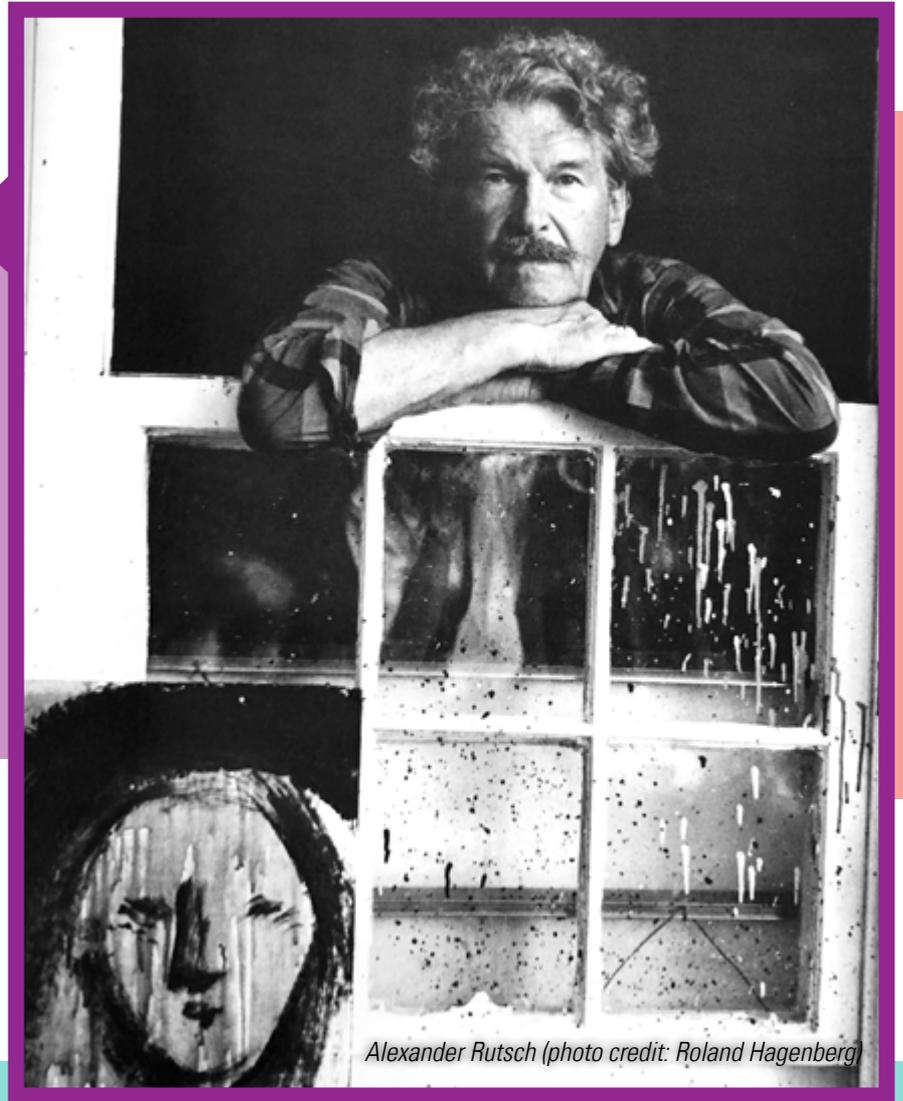
This juried competition, which honors the memory and artistic achievement of artist Alexander Rutsch (1916-1997), is open to U.S.-based artists aged 19 and older. The winner is awarded a cash prize, solo exhibition and printed catalog at Pelham Art Center. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Pelham Art Center and acknowledge the financial hardship affecting many artists during these challenging times, the [2021 Rutsch Award](#) prize was increased to a total of \$10,000 in artist stipends, with the winning artist receiving the \$7,500 prize. Deadline: December 15. For questions, contact shilpi@pelhamartcenter.org.



Paramount Hudson Valley Theater
(photo credit: Mark Vergari/The Journal News)

Armonk Outdoor Art Show Goes Online

The [Armonk Outdoor Art Show](#) (AOAS), originally scheduled for the weekend of October 3-4 and subsequently canceled, will have a new life online. Though the annual show won't be outdoors this year, it will still provide the opportunity for its 160 juried artists to show their work to a wide audience. Guests will be able to tour artist studios through videos, as well as LIVE programs on Facebook, Instagram and Zoom during the same weekend for which it was initially planned. According to Anne Curran, Executive Director of AOAS: "We decided to go virtual, in order to support our community of talented artists who have suffered from a long season of canceled shows."



Alexander Rutsch (photo credit: Roland Hagenberg)

Peekskill Embarks on \$10 Million Revitalization Grant Initiative

Peekskill has received a \$10 million grant from New York State for downtown improvement. A planning committee, which consists of local politicians, business owners, school board representatives and more, recommended 19 projects to be included in the revitalization efforts, including several arts-related initiatives. These include one million dollars for the revitalization of the Paramount Hudson Valley Theater, a \$1.6 million Peekskill Art Center to develop a vacant building into a theater and gallery space, \$500,000 for public art and one-million for the expansion of the Field Library. The committee received feedback from the public; however, the State will decide which of the proposed projects will receive the grant funds.

**Armonk
Outdoor Art
Show**

Bedford Playhouse Appoints News Executive Director Michael Hoagland

Bedford Playhouse has announced the appointment of its new Executive Director, Michael Hoagland, who has a 30-year career in entertainment. Most recently, Hoagland, known as “Hoagy,” was Senior Director of Brand Advancement and Events at the USO in New York City. According to the Playhouse’s Board Chair Sarah Long, “Hoagy joins Bedford Playhouse at a critical time...He is a strategic thinker who brings a diverse skill-set to [the] organization.” Says Hoagland: “I know first-hand how critical a thriving arts organization is to a community. As a steward for the next generation, I am eager to leverage my industry experience to engage with our members, expand our exceptional programming and welcome the community back through our Playhouse doors.”



Local Businesses Pledge to Safeguard Westchester's Residents and Visitors

A new Westchester County Tourism & Film initiative, Westchester With Care, is enlisting area businesses and nonprofits to help fight COVID-19 and safeguard the health and wellbeing of all individuals in Westchester County. Participating organizations are required to take [an online pledge](#) to:

- Follow CDC and New York State Department of Health guidelines for cleaning
- Provide employees with training in health, safety and sanitizing best practices
- Monitor employees for COVID-19 symptoms or exposure and mandate they stay home if there is cause for concern
- Use protective equipment, including face coverings
- Encourage or require customers and visitors to comply with guidelines
- Reduce capacity and maintain social distancing in accordance with government mandates
- Complete the statewide NY Forward reopening plan

More than three dozen Westchester County organizations have already enlisted, including ArtsWestchester, Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, White Plains Performing Arts Center, Historic Hudson Valley.



upcoming virtual and in-person activities

October Arts Offerings



Clay Arts Center (photo courtesy of Clay Art Center)

Alliance Française de Westchester offers a selection of [French summer camps](#) and [intensive online classes for children, teens and adults](#) who want to improve their French.

Arc Stages presents online and in-person classes, live-streamed concerts, open mic night sessions and summer camps both on-site and online classes in Acting Technique, Choreography, Music and Vocal Technique and more. arcstages.org/connects

The annual **Armonk Outdoor Art Show**, sponsored by Friends of North Castle Public Library, will be hosted online this year on October 3 & 4 from 10am-5pm. Guests will explore the work of 160 juried artists who work in fine crafts, mixed media, painting, wearable art and more.

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, a look back at the staff's favorite exhibited works every Thursday, [virtual ArtsMobile activities for kids](#), [Teen Tuesday](#) and [Thursday programs](#) and more. facebook.com/artswestchester and instagram.com/artswestchester

- [Lawrence Salley Photography Award and Virtual Exhibition](#): On view now
- [Give Us the Vote: 20/20 - A Digital Exhibition](#): Beginning in mid-October

[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 full list of current programs, [click here](#) and visit facebook.com/bedfordplayhouse and instagram.com/bedfordplayhouse.

[Bethany Arts Community](#) presents [Art in the time of COVID](#), an exhibition featuring teaching artists from the New York State Artists Teacher Association that explore current issues through confrontation, escape, negotiation and affirmation (IN PERSON). Reservations are encouraged but not required. The organization is also hosting two online classes: Picasso Online: The Man, The Myth, The Legend (Through October 13) and American Modernism Online (Through October 31). Gallery hours: Mon-Fri: 10am-12pm and 1-3pm, October 3 & 10: 10am-2pm.

[Blue Door Art Center](#) is open to the public and is currently exhibiting Global Expressions, which celebrates cultural heritage through art (IN PERSON). The center will also host a series of free art workshops for kids and writing workshops for adults on Saturdays via Zoom. Hours: Sat: 1-5pm.

[Broadway Training Center](#) offers 2-week camp sessions that will either be via Zoom or a blended mix of Zoom and in-person if safety guidelines permit.

[Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts](#) offers a variety of music and family programs. Audiences can enjoy new live-streamed concerts and past performances by world-renowned artists on youtube.com/c/caramoor.

- [Clarinet Anthony McGill and Piano Gloria Chien:](#) October 2 at 8pm
- [Livestream- Aaron Diehl Trio:](#) October 16 at 8pm
- [Livestream- Callisto Quartet:](#) October 18 at 3pm
- [Livestream- Jeremy Denk:](#) October 25 at 3pm

[Center for the Digital Arts, Peekskill](#) will host Fall classes online and via remote learning. The Center offers digital arts education including: web development, desktop publishing, 2D/3D animation, digital video and digital filmmaking. [Click here](#) for the full list of classes.

- Design and Edit Photos with Free and Low Cost Software Alternatives: October 10-November 14 at 10am-1pm
- Optimizing Social Media Profiles: October 29-November 5 at 6-9pm

[Clay Art Center](#) has reopened its studios for open studio sessions by appointment (IN PERSON). The Center also offers virtual classes, artist lectures and demonstrations, as well as a portion of its [Connections](#) exhibition online.

- Virtual Artist Talks: Virtual Artist Talks: Doug Herren (October 1), Donte Hays (October 27),
- [Teen Wheel Throwing for Ages 13+:](#) Sundays at 11am (IN PERSON)

[Color Camera Club of Westchester](#) will be presenting photographic programs via Zoom. The group will host a gathering of photographers to enhance their image making skills on September 14, as well as an online exhibition featuring highlights of its International Photographic Competition. colorcameraclub.com

[Copland House's](#) new virtual performance and conversation series, UNDERSCORED, will offer premieres, revivals and classics by American composers. Each program will be performed after a conversation and before a live Q&A with the viewers. Programs include: [Sonata for Violin and Piano](#) (10/13) and [Quartet for Piano and Strings](#) (10/26). The group is also posting videos of past performances with a new "[Coping ...with Copland House](#)," series.

[The Daisy Jopling Music Mentorship Foundation](#) and the [Bannerman Castle Trust](#) will host set of [intimate performances](#) by world-renowned violinist Daisy Jopling with an illuminated backdrop of the Bannerman Castle through October 4 (IN PERSON). The event will include a VIP reception and walking tour of the island and gardens. Throughout the island on various stages, youth from the Foundation will be playing before the evening's main musical attraction. Purchase tickets [here](#).

[Emelin Theater](#) will present a livestream performance with [Suzanne Vega](#) from the Blue Note Jazz Club in NYC on October 7. The Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter will celebrate the release of her new live album, An Evening of New York Songs and Stories, during the event. emelin.org

[Friends of Music Concerts](#) will offer five recordings by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, each for a period of five days. The schedule includes pianists Alessio Bax and Lucille Chung (10/10) and violinist Cho-Liang Lin (10/24).



upcoming virtual and in-person activities

[Groove Family Music](#) offers **[outdoor family-centric music classes](#)** in Addison Park in Larchmont (IN PERSON).

[The Ground Glass](#) presents **[The Decisive Moment Revisited](#)**, a virtual photography exhibit inspired by the works of famous photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson. The group's photography exhibition, Sustained Investigations, is also on view online. The exhibit will be on view on The Ground Glass website. thegroundglass.org

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

[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

- Business District: A

Virtual Exhibition by Frederic JG Blanque: Ongoing

[Historic Hudson Valley](#) presents its annual **[Great Jack O' Lantern Blaze](#)** event at Van Cortlandt Manor through November 21 (IN PERSON). Guests will walk through an 18th-century landscape and discover a display of more than 7,000 illuminated jack o' lanterns—all designed and hand-carved on site by a team of artisans. hudsonvalley.org

[Hoff-Barthelson Music School](#) presents an **[Online Summer Arts Program for grades 1-12](#)** which will offer students the opportunity to grow in their enjoyment and practice of music. The school will also offer a new online **[Summer Early Childhood Music and First Instrument program](#)** for children and families on August 3. hbms.org



Groove Family Music offers outdoor music classes in Addison Park in Larchmont, now through 10/30

[Hudson River Museum](#) welcomes back audiences for the eighth year of its **[Summer Amphitheater Series](#)**, featuring a variety of performances on Saturday evenings through September 19 in the Museum's outdoor theater. Museum Hours: Thurs-Sun: 12–5pm.

[Hudson Valley Museum of Contemporary Art](#) will reopen on September 15 by appointment, with an expanded exhibition of **[How We Live](#)**, introducing two-dimensional works to the dialogue. 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. Hours: Thursday-Saturday by appointment.

- **[Climbing the Walls - A Virtual Theater, Poetry and Image Project](#)**: On view now



(photo source: indgroove.com)

- **[Making Masks](#)**: An ongoing art opportunity for artists

[Hudson Valley Music Club announced its 96th season](#) with virtual concerts by internationally acclaimed artists on Monday afternoons and Tuesday mornings.

[Hudson Valley Writers Center](#) will present free readings throughout the month, and a special offer on their own SHP chapbooks. There are a series of classes and readings, all online, and ready for immediate registration. For a complete list of will now offer youth programs, virtual classes, workshops and online readings, visit writerscenter.org.

- **[Publishing Success: Poetry with Amy Holman via Zoom](#)**: October 1 at 4pm
- **[A Fiction Reading with Christina Chiu & Andrew Krivak via Zoom](#)**: October 2 at 7pm
- **[The Lyric Memoir with Marco Wilkinson via Zoom](#)**: October 3 at 12:30pm
- **[The Art of Telling with Chen Chen via Zoom](#)**: October 4 at 12:30pm
- **[Submission Sunday](#)**: October 4 at 12:30pm **(IN PERSON)**
- **[A Reading with Joshua Bennett, Diannely Antigua and Zeeshan Pathan via Zoom](#)**: October 9 at 7pm
- **[Poetry of Resistance with JP Howard via Zoom](#)**: October 10 at 12:30pm
- **[Allowing Character to Build Narrative with Christina Chiu on Zoom](#)**: October 11 at 12:30pm

- **[The Joy of Editing with Daniel Lawless & Frances Richey on Zoom](#)**: October 17 at 12:30pm
- **[Using Memory and Family History as Source Material for Fiction on Zoom](#)**: October 18 at 12:30pm
- **[An Afternoon with Edward Hirsch and Jeffrey Harrison via Zoom](#)**: October 18 at 4pm
- **[One Day Memoir Workshop with Susan Hodara via Zoom](#)**: October 24 at 12:30pm

[Irvington Theater](#) presents its annual All Shorts Irvington Film Festival (As iFF 2020), a two-night virtual festival featuring thirteen shorts films from around the world. Celebrating its fifth year, As iFF presents live

action, animated, and documentary short films chosen from hundreds of international submissions.

[Jacob Burns Film Center](#) will present a virtual edition of its **[Westchester Jewish Film Festival](#)** from October 14-27. The festival will feature 12 films, including cinematic narratives and revealing documentaries from Israel, Hungary, France, Ethiopia, the US, and other countries. The center is also highlighting staff-chosen films, as well as its **["Viewing and Doing"](#)** series, which provides short films with related activities.

[JCC of Mid-Westchester](#) will host an **[After School Program](#)** for children in grades K-5th **(IN PERSON)**. The program will include art and music activities, fitness classes, and more. The program will run from Monday through Friday at 3:30-6pm.

[Jazz Forum Arts](#) has launched Jazz Forum @ Home, a series of concerts live-streamed on Facebook Live every Saturday at 7pm, and Jitterbugs @ Home, an online jazz program for kids ages 2-7. facebook.com/jazzforumclub

[John Jay Homestead](#)'s grounds and visitor center are open to the public **(IN PERSON)**. The site offers interactive activities, such as

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upcoming virtual and in-person activities

children's projects, a virtual tour and downloadable worksheets on its website.

johnjayhomestead.org

[Katonah Museum of Art](#) has reopened its Museum and Learning Center, which is offering [art workshops for all ages](#). Visitors can purchase tickets to see the *Bisa Butler: Portraits* exhibition, now on extended view through October 4 (**IN PERSON**). Admission is by advance reservation. Hours: Tues-Sat: 10am-5pm, and Sun: 12-5pm.

[Lagond Music School](#) is offering in-person music classes and private lessons to children aged 6+ and adults. lagondmusic.org

[Lyndhurst](#) offers a variety of outdoor tours that will allow audiences to explore its 67-acre site. Tours include: the [Rose Garden, Greenhouse & Pool Tour, Riverfront & Bowling Alley Tour](#) and [Lyndhurst Ramble Tour](#). [Virtual tours](#) of the mansion and its Bowling Alley are also available on its website.

Lyndhurst's [Watershed Moment](#) at its unrestored swimming pool building is open to the public. The mansion



Mural-in-progress by artists Nancy Mendez, Patricia Santos and Katori Walker, on view in Hudson River Museum's Women to the Fore exhibition through 1/3/21 (photo courtesy of Hudson River Museum)

also offers a variety of outdoor tours that will allow audiences to explore its 67-acre site (**IN PERSON**).

Tours include: the [Rose Garden, Greenhouse & Pool Tour, Riverfront & Bowling Alley Tour](#) and [Lyndhurst Ramble Tour](#). [Virtual tours](#) of the mansion and its Bowling Alley are also available on its website.

[Rye Arts Center's](#) Half Day for Half Pints program offers creative and educational programs for preschool students with classes held at the center (**IN PERSON**). For a complete list of in-person and virtual classes, [click here](#).

[Madelyn Jordan Fine Art](#) will present a 5th solo exhibition of new paintings by Chinese-Canadian artist Yangyang Pan (**IN PERSON**). Gallery hours: Thur-Sat: 12-5pm or by private appointment.

[Mamaroneck Artists Guild](#) will open to the public with *MAG Goes Plein Air*, an online group show of works that are created or inspired by outdoor settings and images. The exhibition will be displayed online from September 130. The *MAG Annual Award Show* will also be

on view through October 17 (**IN PERSON**). Gallery hours: Tues- Sat: 12-5pm.

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

[Music Conservatory of Westchester](#) is offering early childhood classes in music basics, as well as youth and teen music classes in classical, jazz and rock. Private lessons are also offered.

[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

Fashion stylist and model Ni'ma Ford will present ["Picture It,"](#) a live fashion photo-shoot demonstration, followed by an interactive workshop that will guide young artists on how to create their own fashion photography stories (IN PERSON). The program, which is supported by an ArtsWestchester Arts Alive Grant, will take place on October 10-11 at the Thomas H. Slater Center in White Plains.

[New Rochelle Council on the Art](#) and Iona College's Brother Kenneth Chapman Gallery present [Unapologetically Me: A Response by Alvin Clayton](#), a virtual exhibition featuring the works of painter Alvin Clayton who responds to the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd and the international wave of support for the Black Lives Matter movement.

[Oak and Oil](#) presents a Group Exhibition showcasing artworks from several local talents through the month of August. The works represent many genres, from oil paintings and acrylics to photography, watercolors and sculpture. oakandoil.com

[OSilas Gallery at Concordia College](#) presents [A Photo Album of Ireland Art](#), a touring exhibition featuring more than 120 photographs that tell of the triumphs and turmoils in the life of a nation (IN PERSON). From the earliest photographs taken in the 1850s to the advent of the

digital era in the early 1990s, these images reveal details about how people lived, worked, and gathered that official historical records may have overlooked. Gallery hours: Sun-Mon, Wed & Fri: By appointment only, Thurs: 12-5pm, Sat: 2-5pm.

[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](#).

[A Palo Seco Flamenco Company](#) presents "Viva Flamenco," and online family-friendly flamenco workshops brought to you by Warner Library and supported by ArtsWestchester during Hispanic Heritage Month 2020 on October 6 at 4:30pm on Zoom.

[Pelham Art Center's](#) *Domestic Brutes* exhibition, which examines diverse approaches of what feminism means in American society today, will be on view through November 7 (**IN PERSON**). The Center will also offer [youth classes for ages 5-13](#), as well a series of virtual studio visits and workshops.

- Virtual Studio Visits: [Aisha Tandiwe Bell](#) (October 1), [Diana Schmertzi](#) (October 8), [Ashley Cooper](#) (October 15), [Alisa Sikelianos-Carter](#) (October 29)

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Now Live: 2020 Art\$WChallenge

The Art\$WChallenge matching grant is an opportunity for arts lovers to support their favorite local groups. This assistance is more important than ever during these unprecedented times. Through December 31, all new donations made to any of [the 100+ participating arts groups](#) will be doubled by ArtsWestchester, with funding support from Westchester County Government.

upcoming virtual and in-person activities

[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](https://www.instagram.com/the_picturehouse).

[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](#) performing arts programs have been adapted for [in-person and online participation for Fall 2020](#).

[Purchase College Conservatory of Music](#) will host a virtual concert that showcases the next generation of songwriters from the College's Music and Technology Department. This performance will be streamed live with students performing 2-3 songs each.

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

[RiverArts](#) will host a livestream of [Six Feet](#), an original play by Melanie Hoopes, on October 17 at 8pm via Zoom. [Virtual music classes](#) are also available this fall.

- [Stitch and Complain with Amanda Hsiao](#): October 7 at 7pm

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

[Rye Arts Center](#) offers [in-person and virtual classes](#) in drawing, painting, ceramics, coding, robotics and more. Other weekly offerings can be found on the [Center's Facebook page](#).

[Steffi Nossen Dance](#) will host virtual classes this fall. The offerings include: Modern, Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Hip Hop, Creative Movement, Parent & Toddler and more. Preschoolers to pre-professional dancers can enroll in any or all of the school's 1-Week to 2-Week offerings.

[Sounds Good Westchester](#) offers [outdoor family-centric music classes](#) near Harrison, Mamaroneck, Larchmont, New Rochelle, Pelham, Port Chester, Purchase, Rye, Rye Brook, and White Plains (IN PERSON). Classes in Spanish are also available.

[The Schoolhouse Theater & Arts Center](#) will present *An Enemy of the People*, a virtual reading of the 1882 play by Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen. The zoom reading is free on October 2 at 7:30pm. The theater will also host a live streaming event with folk singer-songwriter Peter Calo on October 11 at 7pm via Facebook.

[Taconic Opera](#) and the New York Opera Conservatory offer a pre-recorded production of Mozart's [Don Giovanni](#) via YouTube. The Conservatory reimagined the dark tragedy as a comedy taking place during a pandemic. The entire production was staged, filmed and edited using digital technology and cell phones.

[Tarrytown Music Hall "Night In With the Music Hall"](#) series continues this fall with live weekly streams, including acoustic-based rock/pop band Skyfactor on October 7. A series of [free one-hour workshops for kids](#) are offered.

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

[Teatown Lake Reservation](#) will host [various weekly nature classes](#) for children aged 3-12 with enrollment limited to 8 children (IN PERSON).

[Westchester Children's Museum](#) will supplement its virtual learning programs with [8-week programs offered on-site \(IN PERSON\)](#). Topics will include: physics, earth science, archeology, biology, forensics, chemistry, astronomy and neuroscience. This program will meet every

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Film still from *Mover*, which will be screened during Jacob Burns Film Center's Virtual Westchester Jewish Film Festival, 10/15-17, (photo source: burnsfilmcenter.org)

Thursday from October 1 through November 19 at 11am-12pm for a child (4-5 years) and his/her caregiver. All NYS mandated health & safety precautions will be followed.

[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.

[The Westchester Oratorio Society](#) are presenting socially distanced rehearsals for its upcoming fall repertoire, which will include Fauré, Brahms and a virtual seasonal *Messiah* sing-along.

[White Plains Performing Arts Center](#) announces its fall 2020 education programs, which include a youth theatre production of *The Addams Family* and in-person and/or online classes for youth and adults.

- [Summer Theatre Academy](#) offers an online Musical Theatre Intensive and in-person, 1-3 week camp sessions for kids. In-person camps will conclude with musical performances, including Disney's *Descendants*, *Moana JR*, *The Wizard of Oz* and more.

[Westchester Chamber Music Society](#) presents a live-streamed performance by the Dover String Quartet on October 18 at 4pm. The

virtual program will include Haydn's *Quartet Op. 76 No. 2* and Dvorak's *Quartet Op. 106*. Audiences should call Harriet Levine at 914-948-6993 to reserve their private access code.

[White Plains Public Library](#) is open to the public and allows a limited number of patrons into the building to browse and borrow materials (**IN PERSON**). The library's "[Stuck at Home](#)" web page also provides online resources for families. Library hours: Mon-Thurs: 10am-7pm and Fri-Sat: 1-5pm.

[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](#)

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Contact artswnews@artswestchester.org.
No phone calls, please.

Giulio Paolini's 'Amore e Psiche,' 1981, Magazzino Italian Art
(Picture taken at a past ArtsWestchester Friends event)

The image shows a large-scale artwork by Giulio Paolini. It features a small, square-framed drawing of a classical figure's head and shoulders mounted on a plain white wall. From the bottom of the frame, a thick, multi-colored stream of fabric cascades down to the floor. The fabric is divided into distinct color bands: yellow, red, pink, purple, dark blue, and green. The fabric is draped and folded on the floor, creating a sense of movement and depth. The background is a simple, light-colored wall and floor.

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