CELEBRATING JUNETEETH
Dear Readers,

Thank you for taking some time to read this June edition of ArtsNews. Springtime is finally upon us, and there is no better way for us to enjoy the warmer weather than by taking advantage of the wonderful arts opportunities from arts groups throughout the County. Our friends at ArtsWestchester, and the arts community as a whole, have continued to grow and change with these uncertain times, allowing us the chance to explore the arts from the comfort of our own homes. Recently, many of our entertainment venues have been able to reopen their doors for the first time since the pandemic. Please enjoy any of the programs offered by arts groups throughout the County that are highlighted in this issue, including:

• Juneteenth celebrations throughout the County (see page A6)
• the reopening of arts groups (see page A26)
• a family-friendly outdoor exploration of clay (see page A33)

Spring represents new beginnings, progress and the start of something new, and we all long for the days when the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us. There are so many wonderful programs to discover in person and online right here in our own County, and I encourage all of you to explore the beauty of the arts. Thank you.

Sincerely,

George Latimer
Westchester County Executive
Much Ado About Masks

Americans seem to love symbols. It’s our shorthand or slang for announcing who we are or how we feel. So it’s no wonder that masks have become as popular as T-shirts, baseball hats or decals as a way of announcing an affiliation or a point of view. As a kid growing up in Far Rockaway, a mask to me was for play-acting “The Lone Ranger” as we listened to the radio show. Well, we’ve come a long way from the Wild West in our mask meanings. Now, it’s all in the eyes of the wearer, or the beholder. So for example, if you are a fashionista, you might wear a mask to match your dress. I’ve seen folks wearing American flags or even confederate flags across their mouths. I’ve also seen skull and bones or smiley faces.

Mask commentary has a role to play in Together apART: Creating During Covid, a new exhibition organized by ArtsWestchester in its reopened gallery at 31 Mamaroneck Avenue in White Plains. That’s because artists have a lot to say on the subject. In the exhibition, some 250 artists and would-be artists have presented the creative output of their year with Covid. Many of those works include or involve masks.

There’s a soft and gentle arrangement of pastel bentwood masks by sculptor Susan Manspeizer, which she says is meant to “bring order to a chaotic situation.” It also, perhaps, is meant to mimic the powder blue medical masks used in hospitals. Says the artist: “As I emerged from my winter cocoon, I realized that life would take on a ‘new normal’ shape...My sculpture installation imagines a new skin formation on our bodies that may remain with us indefinitely.”

Moving right along in the exhibition, there’s a quilt stitched together from remnants of masks sent to the quilter by folks in 48 countries. There’s a poignant portrait of a masked daughter, a healthcare worker whose sad eyes have probably seen too many lonely deaths.

There’s a striking tableau of portraits of friends looking both dutiful and awkward in their masks. Eleanor Miller of New City created her “Pandemic Portrait Project” in segments. She explains: “One day while grocery shopping, I passed a woman wearing a blue and yellow potholder taped to her face.” That gave her an inspiration. “I emailed people I knew and asked for photos of themselves wearing their masks. I painted them on 8x10 sheets of canvas, cut from whatever I had available, as this expressed the transitory period we were all experiencing.”

Don’t miss Janet’s weekly blog posts at: thisandthatbyjl.com
Artist Dave Steck says about his installation: "I explored ideas of life, loss and social distancing during the COVID-19 crisis. Three figures, each in masks and gloves, stand six feet apart in the corners of a large square, facing each other but unconnected. The fourth corner has an empty black square, as if another figure once stood there."

The mask project of Kathy Yacoe (Skura) of Cold Spring consists of six photographs of masks found in the woods. "During the time of Covid, I have found much solace in the woods. Beginning in the summer, we began to see discarded masks lining the roads and trails. They looked like invasive or alien beings. I began to photograph them." She thinks it may be a story for our times.

Indeed, the art of mask wearing or perhaps just "putting it out there" seems to be a current trend. It’s become such a statement that, who knows? -- the idea of making a statement may be quite enough to motivate those anti-mask folks to wear one after all. That would really be what’s called "a turn of events." If you have a unique mask, tell us about it, or, better still, send us an image.

"Mask commentary has a role to play in a new exhibition organized by ArtsWestchester in its reopened gallery at 31 Mamaroneck Avenue in White Plains."
Whether a mural, mosaic tile, bike rack or sculpture, public works of art can be transformative. They enliven our shared spaces and signal to both residents and visitors that this space is unique and special for everyone. With a $50,000 grant through the National Endowment for the Arts’s (NEA) “Our Town” program, ArtsWestchester and the White Plains Housing Authority, with its development partner Trinity Financial, will be able to use the arts to transform one of the Housing Authority’s properties into a unique, creativity-infused neighborhood.

Brookfield Commons represents a multi-million dollar investment in a refreshed vision for equitable and inclusive communities. Over the next ten years, Brookfield will replace the current Winbrook Housing Complex. The plan includes new energy-efficient buildings, recreation spaces and various amenities, including bike racks, rooftop terraces, walking paths and outdoor sitting and play areas. A goal of the redevelopment is to foster an environment that will not only change non-residents’ perceptions of affordable housing, but will also change residents’ self-perception. With this support from NEA, the arts will be an integral part of the plan.

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Whereas in many cases artists are invited to bring work to a location after construction is finished, this Brookfield Commons project invites artists and residents to both be part of the visioning of the campus when it is still in the design phase. The grant will allow for both an artist-in-residence program and the development of an overarching master plan for the implementation of arts and culture into Brookfield Commons. The project will explore all possibilities for public art, from sculptural entranceways to artist-designed signage.

ArtistsWestchester and the White Plains Housing Authority have long shared a vision for making the arts integral to, and integrated into, the Westchester community. Together, the organizations have collaborated on murals, and on the ArtsWestchester ArtsMobile, to bring the arts to people where they live and gather. The Our Town award advances this collaboration to a new level, creating a partnership with the potential to be a national model for the future of public housing.

Reimagining Equitable Communities

Mural by Nick Kuszyk at The Prelude, a White Plains Housing Authority building (photo credit: Margaret Fox)
Juneteenth commemorates the declaration that all Black people in Galveston, Texas were “free.” This announcement, made on June 19, 1865, came more than two years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation and is considered by Black people in the United States as “Emancipation Day”: The date is celebrated annually to commemorate the end of slavery in the country; however, last year, the State of New York announced that this date would become an official state holiday beginning in 2021. The welcome announcement has prompted additional celebrations and events throughout Westchester County (see page A12).

The following pages feature excerpts from interviews between ArtsWestchester’s Director of Folk Arts, Aaron Paige, with prominent Juneteenth community leaders in Westchester and Rockland Counties. The interviews highlight the history of these Juneteenth celebrations and their plans for 2021.
Excerpts of an interview with Virginia “Ginny” Norfleet, Founder and Executive Director of the Haverstraw African American Connection

Aaron Paige (AP): What is the origin of Haverstraw African-American Connection and Haverstraw’s Juneteenth celebration?

Ginny Norfleet (GF): We had our first celebration in 2016. Haverstraw was home to 238 slaves... We built a memorial park that would host this history as well as names of all the African-American families, [and we decided to] have a yearly celebration on Juneteenth. We have a rich African-American history, but it was hidden for 400 years... After educating my friends on this history, [we created] the Haverstraw African American Connection, whose mission is to educate about the history of the African-Americans of Haverstraw.

AP: What makes Haverstraw’s Juneteenth celebration unique?

GN: African-American Memorial Park is where the first African-American AME Zion church once stood in Haverstraw in 1846... Today, the ancestors who went unnoticed, unrecognized and whose stories remained untold, are finally being given a platform to hear and tell their story. We also honor Him, the same God that brought Harriet Tubman through, when she couldn’t read and write.

AP: What is the plan for Juneteenth 2021?

GN: We will kick off on June 18. We start down by Village Hall, where we raise a flag and sing "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Then we celebrate with a humongous block party – a live band along with DJ Ginny Norfleet (that’s me!). The following day, we have our "real" celebration at 41 Clinton Street... We will feature gospel greats Anointed Friends, Lorraine Stancil, Minister Angel Brooks, and Richard Smith and Friends. This year’s Juneteenth will be even bigger because it’s a state holiday and because the Wesley Wofford statue of Harriet Tubman is currently in Haverstraw.

AP: What does Juneteenth mean to you personally?

GN: You have to understand that this history, and even the story of Juneteenth, is quiet. I was in my fifties when I first heard about Juneteenth. I want to make sure that that same issue would never be a problem for future generations. It should be as well-known as Christmas or Easter, because this is our celebration, celebrating our freedom. It’s for anybody and everybody.

Read the full interview here.
Irvington

Excerpt from an interview with Kelli Sherelle Scott, Founder of Irvington Juneteenth, Chef Activist and Food Story Teller.

Aaron Paige (AP): Juneteenth in Irvington is one of the more recent annual celebrations in Westchester County. Can you tell me about that?
Kelli Sherelle Scot (KS): Last year, we were going through two pandemics at the same time...when the racial climate in America had flipped upside down... We really felt like it was important to continue the conversation around social justice... I had wanted to do a program around food for Juneteenth [last year]... but I quickly realized, that we needed to do so much more. So we took on the responsibility of Juneteenth as an educational moment...
AP: As a chef and food justice activist, how do you connect food and Juneteenth?
KS: Last year, I [told the] story of the Gullah Geechee people based out of the Carolinas and Georgia... Literal blood, sweat and tears went into the rice that you eat with your meals... These people were left in the middle of islands and if they tried to get away, they would drown... So for Juneteenth, it was important that we partner with local restaurants...to bring business into our local economy. This year, we’re partnering with MP Taverna...and Cravin’ [in Ossining].

Peekskill

Excerpt from an interview with Tuesday Paige McDonald, Executive Director of City of Peekskill Youth Bureau and Minister of Music at Mount Olivet Baptist Church.

Aaron Paige (AP): What makes Peekskill’s Juneteenth celebration unique?
Tuesday Paige McDonald (TM): The ritual that I love most in our Juneteenth is that we start our celebration in Park Street AME Zion Church. Before our parade starts, we meet there and have prayer and sing the Black national anthem. There is always a leader in the community who takes the time to talk about why we’re here. Almost like a statement of purpose. I love that we start there because of the connection between Park Street AME Zion Church and the Underground Railroad.
AP: What does Juneteenth mean to you, and has its meaning changed over time?
TM: For me, it’s a day that symbolizes the slow march of progress. I’m not one who sits around the table and says that we haven’t made any progress, but I also feel that we have a long struggle ahead to reach equality. Just going back to June 2020, and the uprising with George Floyd...and then you think about Juneteenth coming... George Floyd’s killing really sparked something in all of us, and for me it made Juneteenth all that more powerful... I’m looking back and I’m saying ‘Wow, how did my ancestors go through this and still be so resilient?’
AP: What do you have planned for 2021?
TM: It’s going to be beautiful and I am really excited... [After] a private outdoor brunch... we are going to go to Peekskill’s Depew Park, where there will be music... spoken word by our youth... a twenty minute play presented by New Era Creative Space... and two food trucks. The field is huge, [so] we’ll be without masks, but social distancing to keep it safe. In the evening, the NAACP is going to do a virtual event, which will give people who may not be gathering in person the opportunity to attend and celebrate Juneteenth.

Read the full interview here.
Excerpt from an interview with Robert Winstead, President of the Yonkers African American Heritage Committee

Aaron Paige (AP): What makes the celebration of Juneteenth in Yonkers unique?

Robert Winstead (RW): Having a chance to speak our own narratives. Juneteenth gives us an opportunity to speak and to learn about these authentically...and also we feel it’s important to remember our ancestors. The legacy of redemption, restoring and trying to rebuild your community as well as yourself...that is a narrative not spoken about enough. So during Juneteenth, we look towards music, education, business and see the positive contributions that African people have made in America.... And the journey still continues today... We can still make a connection and understand the continuity between post-Civil War times, the modern civil rights movement and Black Lives Matter.

AP: What are your Juneteenth plans for 2021?

RW: [Our celebration] is three days: June 18-20...We start off with our pan-African flag raising at City Hall on June 18... and present our King and Queen scholarship recipients – students from the high school who are pursuing their education... On June 19, we will be at Trevor Park all day with youth activities like a kickball tournament and basketball workshops, and then our Ujamaa educational symposium, [during which] several businesspeople will lead a panel discussion that focuses on economic development and cooperation. Our Juneteenth youth division, headed by Project Inspire, worked with the Yonkers African-American Heritage Committee on a youth night. They sponsor a talent and award show, and that’s really our highlight for that day.

On Sunday, June 20, we bring together different church organizations to lead the church service. Historically we have two to five different churches present, and they all have their morning service in the park. The church service is followed by the African Healing Circle with drums and dancing. After that, the Juneteenth summer stage opens up with a huge variety of performances featuring comedians, spoken word artists and culminates in a headlining band.

Read the full interview here.
Excerpt from an interview with Jonette Mines, President of White Plains Juneteenth Heritage Inc. and Darryl J. Jenkins, Co-Founder of the White Plains Juneteenth Heritage Festival and Parade

Aaron Paige (AP): How did you come to be the first City in Westchester County to organize a Juneteenth celebration?  
Darryl J. Jenkins (DJ): We started back in 2004…We wanted to have a legacy for our community and the people of White Plains. We wanted everybody of all races and creeds and color to understand what Juneteenth was really about. It was about creating a legacy and teaching the history.  

AP: What do you feel makes the White Plains Juneteenth celebration unique?  
Jonette Mines (JM): We were the trailblazers, starting Juneteenth in 2004. It was great to see a diverse group of people, all nationalities coming out to support us and see the parade and the festival and to learn and understand what Juneteenth is all about. For me, it’s about seeing everyone come together, raising the flag for everyone to see, and of course the entertainment.  

AP: What significance does Juneteenth have to you personally?  
DJ: The important part is the education and the history. A lot of people, Black and White, didn’t know what Juneteenth was about when we started doing this. It was great to see people wanting to know more about Juneteenth… to find out about the history and how it came about. This is a time when people come together, rejoice, have fun and learn at the same time.  

AP: What is White Plains Juneteenth Heritage planning for 2021?  
JM: We have a virtual event planned for June 12. There will be an ancestral prayer, singing of the negro national anthem and the national anthem, and a performance by jazz vocalist Samara Joy. Heather Miller, Executive Director of the Slater Center and a member of White Plains Juneteenth Heritage, will recite her poem Mama Africa. We will be honoring our Grand Marshall, Wayne Bass, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation for the City of White Plains. We are also going to show footage from past parades and festivals.  

Read the full interview here.
Juneteenth

JUNETEENTH EVENTS

Bedford
• June 19: Idea Committee of Bedford will present *Juneteenth: Freedom Day* at Bedford Village Memorial Park. This outdoor event will discuss the history of Juneteenth and Bedford’s Black history told by members of the community, with performances by Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation and live jazz by Shirazette and Sonic Wallpaper Band. 2-4pm.

*Idea Committee of Bedford is also challenging Elementary, Middle and High School students to create a poster that depicts the inventive ways African Americans advocated for, and ensured, their own freedom. Posters must be dropped off on June 5 or June 12 between 10am-3pm at Katonah Space.*

Haverstraw
• June 18-19: Haverstraw African American Connection will raise a flag and sing *Lift Every Voice and Sing* on June 18, followed by a block party with music by a live band and DJ Ginny Norfleet. On June 19, the organization will have a Juneteenth celebration at 3pm at 41 Clinton Street in Haverstraw. This event will feature gospel music by Anointed Friends, Lorraine Stancil, Minister Angel Brooks and Richard Smith and Friends.

Irvington
• June 19: The Village of Irvington will celebrate its 2nd annual Juneteenth Celebration Rally. The event will include a panel discussion, as well as music featuring Nkumu Katalay and The Life Long Band Project.

Mount Vernon
• June 19: The City of Mount Vernon will celebrate Juneteenth with a day of activities. Families and children will be able to play an interdepartmental Negro League game of baseball. The event will culminate with an in-person concert in Brush Park.

New Rochelle
• Throughout June: *New Rochelle Council on the Arts* presents *Juneteenth: A Narrative of Freedom*, an exhibition in honor of the annual holiday in Rotunda Gallery at City Hall. The exhibition will be on view for the month of June.
• June 19: The City of New Rochelle, in partnership with The Lincoln Park Conservancy, Inc., will present “Passion and Perseverance,” a community Juneteenth celebration 9am-9pm at multiple venues around the City. The celebration will include African dance performances, history presentations, films, jazz performances, dance, spoken word and more. A ceremonial flag raising will take place at City Hall (12-2pm), followed by family-friendly activities, such as a scavenger hunt and crafts at the Thomas Paine Cottage (3-6pm).

Ossining
• June 2: The Juneteenth Council in Ossining, in collaboration with the Village of Ossining, will raise the official Juneteenth flag at Market Square (corner of Main St and Spring St). The flag will be flown throughout the entire month of June to honor the freedom of formerly enslaved Africans in America, as well as the ancestors of Ossining’s black community. 9am.
• June 19: The Juneteenth Council in Ossining, in collaboration with the Town of Ossining, will also host its second annual Juneteenth celebration at the Ossining Riverfront. The will feature spoken word, dance and musical performances. 12pm.

Peekskill
• June 19: The City of Peekskill Youth Bureau will host a Juneteenth Freedom Day at Depew Park. The event will include music, spoken word, dance, freedom tributes and production by New Era Creative Space. 1-3pm.

Pelham
• June 16: Pelham Public Library presents a Juneteenth Program with Artist Atiba Wilson. Wilson will present a lecture and demonstration, “We Who Believed in Freedom, Did Not Rest!,” that will discuss the participation of Blacks in the struggle for self-emancipation. Music, poetry and storytelling will be included in the presentation. 7:30-8:30pm.

White Plains
• June 19: Music Conservatory of Westchester will present a Juneteenth Celebration Concert. The concert will feature music by prominent composers, such as Adophus Hailstork and Herbie Hancock, performed by the school’s faculty, followed by a Q&A session with the performers. While the concert will have limited in-person seating available in the Conservatory’s Recital Hall, it will also be livestreamed. 7pm.
Yonkers

- **June 18-20:** The City of Yonkers and the Yonkers African American Heritage Committee will present its Citywide Juneteenth African Heritage Festival Weekend 2021 at Trevor Park. The festival will feature a flag-raising ceremony, worship service, live entertainment, educational symposium, kid’s activities, vendor market and food.

Virtual

- **June 1:** ArtsWestchester, Westchester African American Advisory Board, White Plains Juneteenth Heritage Inc., and the Juneteenth Committees of Mount Vernon, Peekskill, Yonkers, Irvington and Haverstraw will present a Virtual Countywide Juneteenth Kickoff program via Facebook and Zoom. This virtual program, featuring lectures, music and dance, will mark the beginning of a month-long celebration of Juneteenth activities throughout the County. 7pm.

- **June 12:** The City of White Plains will present its Juneteenth Heritage Festival, which will be held virtually. This program will have live music performances, a flag-raising ceremony and an ancestral prayer by Joseph Boykin, with Salim Ptah on drums, and more. The festival will also include past parade and festival footage. The 2021 theme, “Preserving Our Legacy”, illustrates the historical commitment of those who came before us and our determination to continue to fulfill their legacy. This event will air on Fios channel 47, Optimum channel 75 and streamed live on the White Plains Juneteenth Heritage Facebook page. 11am-1pm.

- **June 18:** Westchester Community College will present a Juneteenth Celebration via Zoom. This celebration will feature music and discussions from multiple speakers to honor the day in 1865 when enslaved people within the states of Texas and Louisiana finally heard that they’d been freed, two months after the Civil War had ended. 11am- 1:30pm.

- **June 19:** Peekskill NAACP will present a virtual Juneteenth Celebration via the organization’s YouTube page. This livestreamed event will celebrate the area’s matriarchs with songs of freedom. 6pm.
**ArtsWestchester Names Tom Manisero as Golf Outing Honoree**

ArtsWestchester has named Thomas R. Manisero, a longtime supporter of its annual golf outing, as its 2021 Golf Outing honoree. Even though Manisero, one of the organization’s board members since 2014, is an attorney, he has also supported the organization, giving counsel on board legal matters and actively participating as Co-Chair of the golf outing for many years. His participation has helped to transform the event into one of the organization’s most successful fundraisers. Professionally, Manisero lectures, and writes articles and thought leadership pieces on his high-profile cases, some notorious enough for television coverage. The [2021 Ralph Martinelli Memorial Golf Outing](#) will take place on June 14 at Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle.

**On-Demand Production of Love, Linda Filmed in Westchester**

The world premiere of a presentation of the Off-Broadway musical *Love, Linda: the Life of Mrs. Cole Porter* debuts on Cole Porter’s birthday, June 9, exclusively on Broadway On Demand. The production, which stars American jazz vocalist Stevie Holland as Linda Lee Thomas, was taped at Whippoorwill Hall at North Castle Public Library during the first week of May. According to Holland, it was the first event to take place in the theater since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Scarsdale native added: “We had a terrific experience filming *Love, Linda* at this gem of a theater – and as a Westchester native, it was additionally nostalgic and heartwarming.” The musical tells the story of Thomas, “the Southern beauty who was the driving force behind legendary songwriter Cole Porter.” *The production* will stream through June 27.

**Hudson Valley Writers Center Appoints New Managing Director**

The [Hudson Valley Writers Center](#) recently announced the appointment of its new Managing Director, Jessie Wright. Wright joins the Center from New York City Ballet, where she served as Senior Manager, Major Gifts. In addition to her strong background in fundraising, she has experience in finance, operations and marketing, which, along with development, will be her key areas of responsibility at the Center. Wright has a B.A. from University of Virginia and an MBA in Arts Administration from University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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**JOURNALISM: BECAUSE REGIONAL NEWS MATTERS.**

Westchester & Fairfield County Business Journals

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We are global technology leaders in the design, manufacture and sales of advanced control systems for all types of electric and hybrid vehicles. Curtis is highly respected as an expert engineering company specializing in EV systems integration. We help our customers design and develop electric drivetrains for wheelchairs, material handling, golf cars, aerial work platforms, on-road and many other types of EVs and hybrids.

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See our job listings at: https://curtis.vip/NYjobs
“When I sat down to recreate the war-zones of COVID, I realized I had to fill the surrounding spaces with other colors. What started out as an attempt to recreate a diagram, failed. Because there is no such thing as empty space during a crisis. In the end, it all became a red-zone. But layered over that was love, compassion, bravery and hope.”
PICTURING AN INVISIBLE THREAT

An orb surrounded by protruding spikes – the structure of the COVID-19 virus, usually depicted as red and angry, was the threat we couldn’t see but all feared. Artists in this collection attempted to magnify the shape and form of both the microscopic virus and its far-reaching impact.

"Picturing the Invisible Threat" is one of thirteen categories that make up ArtsWestchester’s Together apART exhibition, which displays hundreds of works in all artistic disciplines that were created during the pandemic. The exhibition is on view through August 1.
“There was every chance that we could and would die from it. It was coming for me. It was bigger than I was. There was nothing I could do except scrub my hands, wear a mask, and run like hell.”

Self-Portrait in the Time of Covid by Win Zibeon
“Being able to escape into nature was a way for me to deal with the impact of suddenly being isolated. I was doing everything in one giant lofty room that served as my studio and living space with my four cats. To my surprise, I found a deep sense of healing in the midst of an uncertain world.”

Rising Sun
by Monique Michaels
Together apART: Creating During COVID

“During ‘Shelter In Place,’ and having to homeschool, I began a project with my children to teach them how to make pigments. I used elderberry – one of the homeopathic treatments that might protect us from the virus – to make a vibrant and deep tone.”

Breathe In Breathe Out Breathe In
by Antoinette Wysocki
"I had been working as an event planner at a retreat center for 13 years when COVID hit. All of our events were canceled, soon after I was furloughed, and finally I was let go. As a single woman, I was cast into isolation at the exact moment I needed community the most. To cope and stay busy, I developed a daily studio routine and offered art classes online to children."

*Portal* by Erin Koch
Rye is about to get 36 special summertime residents. Butterfly sculptures, ranging in size from dinner plates to dinner tables, will be installed throughout the city’s Village Green in mid-June and remain on display until September.

The new public art exhibition, *Rye’sAbove*, is a collaboration between The Rye Arts Center and The Rotary Club of Rye. Modeled after a successful fundraising program in Colorado Springs called *FLIGHT*, it is meant to uplift the community through the arts while also supporting local education programs. When Sue Autry, a Rye resident and community volunteer who used to live in Colorado Springs and was familiar with *FLIGHT*’s success and popularity, suggested doing something similar in Rye, both the Arts Center and the Rotary Club jumped at the idea.

Plans for the program predate the pandemic, but the symbolism of the sculptures is almost eerily timely. Rye Arts Center’s Executive Director Adam Levi says: “As we started to talk about the butterflies, we realized there was a lot of synergy with what’s happening right now, with a rebirth and coming out of a cocoon and creating something beautiful… It made a lot of sense to us.”

Through a competitive submission process, 33 professional artists

“Public art gives us a reason to go out… It just makes the world better.”
were chosen to transform 36 aluminum alloy and steel sculptures, which range from five to 50 pounds, into original works of art. The artists, hailing from New Paltz down to Hell’s Kitchen, have been working on their butterflies’ transformations since April.

The Arts Center created a shared but safe studio space, nicknamed “the butterfly studio,” which offered the local artists a much-needed place to connect and share materials.

Richela Fabian Morgan, a Rye’sAbove artist and staff member at The Rye Arts Center, says that preparing for the exhibition has been a powerful antidote to the loneliness and isolation of the past year.

She explains: “As an artist, it’s been really hard… and now I feel like I finally get to share something that is not just a screen. I get to share something that people will actually touch and feel and be drawn to when they see it on the street.”

The program has been a positive experience, not only for the artists but for the organizations involved as well.

Richard Sgaglio from The Rotary Club of Rye says: “It’s been a really enjoyable, seamless process. We’re extremely excited and hopeful.”

Those at The Rye Arts Center agree. They are passionate about public art, knowing that it plays an important role in community building, especially in uncertain times. “Public art gives us a reason to go out,” Morgan says. “It just makes the world better.”

The program will culminate in a live auction in the fall, where the sculptures will be sold to the highest bidders. Net proceeds will be split between The Rye Arts Center and The Rotary Club of Rye and will be used for educational programs and scholarships for local students in need.

Sculpture design by Anna Saura
(photo courtesy of Rye Arts Center)
Fans of Caramoor Center for Music in the Arts will once again be able to indulge in a full season of live, in-person musical performances this summer amidst the estate’s lush gardens, stately trees and chirping crickets. Its **seven-week season** will run from June 19 through August 8, followed by two post-season concerts series from August 13 through September 12.

As New York begins to reopen, Caramoor’s Artistic Director Kathy Schuman says she’s grateful that their outdoor venues enable them to present a 35-concert season: “Despite some operational differences, this year’s program remains as robust and varied as ever. I think we’ve all deeply missed the kind of magical experience that comes from sharing live music in the company of others.”

Edward J. Lewis III, Caramoor’s new President and CEO, says he’s thrilled to have joined just as the return to in-person concerts is set to begin. “Tickets are selling well, telling us not only that audiences are ready to come back, but also just how much they value their Caramoor experience,” he says.

The 2021 summer season in Katonah has been designed to meet the latest New York State guidelines related to the pandemic. All shows will run between 60 and 90 minutes without intermission and, as in prior seasons, will take place in the open-air Venetian Theater and other outdoor venues on the estate, now with reduced capacity.

But that’s not all that’s new at Caramoor. In addition to concerts, the grounds will be open and free to the public Fridays through
Sundays from June 11 through October 10. Visitors can discover site-specific installations, part of an annual exhibition of sound art called Sonic Innovations, from Friday to Sunday. This year’s centerpiece is MacArthur Fellow Trimpin’s in “C,” a 16-foot sound sculpture with two octaves of chimes. In addition to a composition by Trimpin, the sculpture will play short pieces by other composers. Other Sonic Innovations artists include Taylor Deupree; Annea Lockwood and Bob Bielecki; Ranjit Bhatnagar; Miya Masaoka; and Spencer Topel and Hana Kassem.

The grounds and buildings at Caramoor may appear traditional, but its programming runs to the adventurous. This year, audiences will enjoy the world premieres of a new Caramoor-commissioned work by composer Saad Haddad and beatboxer and vocal percussionist Shodekeh, and a new piece by flutist and composer Valerie Coleman. Also on the roster are U.S. premieres by composer, violinist and vocalist Natalie Dietterich; sound artist, visual artist and composer Kate Moore; and composer Hilary Purrington.

Then, there are also more traditional offerings. Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra kick off the season at an opening night gala on June 19. Other major events include a recital by pianist Richard Goode on June 25, a 91st birthday celebration for Stephen Sondheim on July 10 and a concert by The Orchestra of St. Luke’s, Caramoor’s orchestra-in-residence for the past 42 summers, on June 27. Singer-songwriter Joan Osborne will make her Caramoor debut on July 17.

In addition to attending concerts, visitors can wander Caramoor’s 80 acres to explore its newly renovated, landscaped Italianate and woodland gardens, attend a “Concert on the Lawn” from the new bandshell on Friends Field and commune with nature and architecture on socially distanced walks and picnics. Also new this year is “Garden Listening,” wherein all of the concerts taking place in the Venetian Theater will be broadcast onto the grounds to be heard from anywhere on Caramoor’s campus.

For those who don’t mind some movement during their musical experiences, Donald Nally, conductor of choral group The Crossing, has created “The Forest.” On July 3, the group’s performers will stand 30 feet apart on Caramoor’s wooded grounds as audience members stroll a preconceived path at socially distanced intervals. “The Forest’s” libretto is based on the singers’ own reactions to pandemic lockdown.

Audience members will also be encouraged to move around during Alarm Will Sound’s free performance of John Luther Adams’s work Ten Thousand Birds on July 11. Adams customizes his composition to reflect the different types of birdsongs that are heard at the locations where the piece is performed.
The Arts Are Making a Comeback

Slowly but surely, arts groups of all disciplines have begun to reopen as New York State expands guidelines for cultural groups in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. ArtsNews asked local arts organizations for more information about their reopening plans, whether this month or in the future, as they work to welcome back the public. Below are their responses.

Bedford Playhouse
Courtney Davis Walker, Director, Marketing & Communications

Bedford Playhouse reopened to the public on May 28, leading up to a highly anticipated season of summer blockbusters. Based on guidance from public health experts and the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO)’s Cinema Safe guidelines, the Playhouse is putting enhanced health and safety measures into action. Executive Director Michael Hoagland adds: “We are incredibly grateful for the support our community has shown over the last very difficult year, and we are looking forward to welcoming guests back home to the Playhouse.”

Bullseye Resource Center New York
Rachel Deliz, Manager

Bullseye Glass Resource Center in Mamaroneck welcomes guests back to its store, studio and gallery to join the Center for classes, attend an Open Studio session or buy glass art. The Center offers new ways to learn glass-making skills that combine online instruction with hands-on making. Anyone can drop by to see the new gallery space for inspiration or glass gifts. The Center is open Tuesday through Saturday.

Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts
Christina Horzepa, Grants Manager

Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts is thrilled to present a full summer season of 35 live and in-person performances this year. The events, all held outdoors, encompass a range of genres and include the return of the annual Jazz Festival; American Roots Music Festival; July 4 Pops & Patriots concert; a celebration of Stephen Sondheim’s music; and much more. Performances range from large ensembles (Orchestra of St. Luke’s, The Knights, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra) to soloists (guitarist JIJI and pianists Richard Goode and Conrad Tao). A collection of sound art is also on display.

The Center for the Digital Arts, Peekskill at Westchester Community College
Dr. Sherry Mayo, Director

The Center for Digital Arts, Peekskill Extension of Westchester Community College will reopen this fall. The Center offers digital media certificates as well as courses in studio arts and media classes for youth. On view this fall will be Sketches of Spain: Robeson 1938, which features original sketches by various artists depicting Paul Robeson throughout his life as a scholar, athlete, actor, singer and human rights activist; Grass + Roots: Peekskill to Poughkeepsie, a juried show and partnership between the Putnam Arts Center and the Center for the Digital Arts Gallery, curated by Patricia Miranda; and the pop-up show, Celebration!, curated by the Peekskill Arts Alliance.

Clay Art Center
Nancy Yates, Communications Manager

Clay Art Center is currently offering in-person clay classes with reduced class sizes. It will be increasing capacity for its summer term classes beginning June 28. In-person visits are now available for gallery exhibitions by appointment and will be holding Spring Fest pottery sale, which includes fun clay activities for the whole family, outside on June 5. In-person summer camp is being offered July 6 – September 3 for ages 6-15.

Croton Academy of Arts
Myrlin Valerio, Director

Croton Academy of Arts (CAA) will be fully opening its doors this summer with a dozen new camp programs in performing and fine arts and crafts for campers of all school ages. In the fall, CAA will return to holding its after school performing arts program, all theatrical classes, and plays for children and adults at its renovated studio, which now features new flooring, seating and H-13 HEPA filtered air purifiers. In-person after school classes at the Croton-Harmon school district in arts enrichment will also return.
 Hammond Museum and Japanese Stroll Garden
Elizabeth Hammer Munemura, Executive Director

The Hammond Museum and Japanese Stroll Garden in North Salem recently reopened to the public. Open hours are Wednesday-Saturday at 12-4pm. A group exhibition, Voices: I Remember, opens on June 5. While there will not be classes in our basement this year, a varied program of events and programs, online and live, are planned.

Hoff-Barthelson Music School
Patrick Cacciola, Director of Marketing and Communications

Hoff-Barthelson Music School has gradually opened for in-person private lessons and certain ensemble classes. This summer, the School offers an in-person, socially distanced Summer Arts Program for students entering grades 1-12 in two two-week sessions. Additionally, in-person private instruction will be expanded to include wind players and voice. This fall, the School will resume all programming in-person with health and safety protocols in place.

Hudson River Museum
Samantha Hoover, Deputy Director for Advancement, Communications, and Administration

The Hudson River Museum (HRM) plans to reopen its Planetarium on July 16 in a reduced capacity, strictly following New York State and CDC guidelines. In addition, a full season of our Summer Amphitheater Series returns with free performances every Friday and Saturday evenings from July 9-August 20 and free Summer Evening Hours from July 16-August 28 (5-7pm, with free planetarium shows on Fridays at 6pm). Four exhibitions will open this summer: Wall Power! Spectacular Quilts from the American Folk Art Museum and Collection Spotlight: Storied Quilts from the Hudson River Museum both open June 18; Richard Haas: Circles in Space opens June 25; Jack Stuppin: The Beginning of My World opens July 2.

Hudson Valley Writers Center
Jessie Wright, Managing Director

Hudson Valley Writers Center is currently assessing its building systems and technological needs to welcome writers and readers safely back to our home at the historic Philipse Manor train station. We envision a future where we are able to provide inspiring literary programming for both in-person and virtual community members and continued engagement with groundbreaking writers from around the country and the world. In the meantime, we have an exciting summer and fall planned with a full slate of readings, writing workshops and community events, all offered virtually.
**Irvington Theater**
*Greg Allen, Theater Manager*

For the first time ever, *Irvington Theater is having a summer season by taking it outdoors.* We will be offering a three-film series (one each month from June to August), a co-produced play in July with River’s Edge Theatre, and three weekends of free Shakespeare in August with the Irvington Shakespeare Company. While our season usually starts in September, we are waiting due to lack of proper ventilation in our historic theater. We are working to remedy that with an opening date announcement to come later.

**Jacob Burns Film Center**
*Denise Treco, Director of Marketing and Communications*

*Jacob Burns Film Center* is thrilled to welcome the community back to its Theater to once again experience the magic of watching a movie together. The Center kicked off our 20th anniversary year with independent first-run, documentary, and retrospective films as well as original curated series. In July, we’ll see the return of our popular "Sounds of Summer" music series, highlighting some of the best films screened in past years.

**Katonah Classic Stage**
*Trent Dawson, Founding Artistic Director*

*Katonah Classic Stage* recently had its first live, in-person events: three benefit performances of *Thom Pain (based on nothing)* at Bedford Playhouse. The show was well-attended and proved that audiences are hungry for live theater to return. Our next event is a film festival on August 7, held outdoors, picnic-style on the lawn next to the Playhouse. Our official opening of our inaugural show, *Private Lives*, takes place September 16. We are still working on the ideal outdoor location for the show.

**Mamaroneck Artists Guild**
*Mitchell Visoky, Co-President*

*Mamaroneck Artists Guild* vacated its physical gallery space...
in September 2020. We have since operated online with exhibits, programs and receptions. We plan to reestablish a physical space by September 2021 with on-site exhibits that will be open to the public. We will continue a hybrid of programs both in-person and virtual. New members are welcomed by contacting gallery@mamaroneckartistsguild.org. We are building close links with the local communities by collaborating on pop-up shows with other venues in Westchester, participating in local art initiatives like Arts on the Avenues in Larchmont, and developing new programs in partnership with other cultural organizations.

Music at Asbury
Mary Thombs, Chair

Music at Asbury will return to live performances on June 13 at 4 pm with an outdoor program, A Tribute to Jerome Kern. Asbury Church has an outdoor chapel area adjacent to its parking lot, which will serve as the stage with audience members seated in socially-distanced "pods." Attendance is free but by reservation only. To keep artists safe, we will only use three singers, one narrator and one pianist. We will be recording and editing for streaming on our website.

The Neuberger Museum of Art
Tracy Fitzpatrick, Director

The Neuberger Museum of Art recently reopened its doors to members and the general public. Hours through July 9 are 12-5pm Wednesday-Friday; beginning July 14, the museum will be open Wednesday-Sunday. Admission is currently free for all visitors. Exhibitions on view feature objects from the museum’s 6,000+ piece collection of modern, contemporary and African art. A brief Visitor Screening must be completed prior to each visit.

New Castle Historical Society/Horace Greeley House Museum
Jennifer Plick, Executive Director

The New Castle Historical Society/Horace Greeley House Museum in Chappaqua has been open with reduced capacity since July 2020, when New York State allowed arts and education organizations to re-open for limited visitation. In another change to our normal operations, we decided to forgo traditional guided tours, and implemented self-guided tours. Visitors can now tour the historic Horace Greeley House by using a brochure and our app-based audio guide. Looking ahead, we eagerly anticipate being able to welcome more visitors to the Greeley House this summer and returning to some in-person programming.

New Rochelle Council on the Arts
Theresa Kump Leghorn, President

After seeing the 2020 season canceled, the New Rochelle Council on the Arts (NRCA) is excited to be working on some exciting summer programming. The free Summer Sounds Concert Series will return to the Hudson Park bandshell for four Wednesdays in August. In addition, NRCA is partnering with Twining Development to present four additional concerts on Sunday afternoons at The Armory. NRCA and Twining will also present Lawn Chair Theatre Company’s production of A Midsummer Night’s Queen at The Armory on July 25 and ArtsFest, which will return October 15-17.

The Performing Arts Center, Purchase College
Mara Rupners, Director of Marketing

At Performing Arts Center, Purchase College, we are setting our sights on the future and laying out plans for the summer, fall and beyond. This summer, we will turn our attention to internal matters and will kick off several maintenance projects. Come fall, a greater variety of virtual programming will be available for audiences of all ages, along with a continued focus on the creation of new work. Our theaters and lobby will serve as safe learning and performance spaces for our students throughout the academic year. We hope to finally see a return to limited live programming in early 2022 and anticipate the curtain rising on an in-person 2022-23 season.

PJS Jazz Society
John Brathwaite, President

PJS Jazz Society is excited to resume its Second Sunday this fall beginning with a September 12 return to live concerts. We anticipate that clearance for live concerts in our performance space will be confirmed during the summer, enabling us to prepare another amazing jazz concert series. If it turns out that live concerts are not possible, we will continue with virtual concerts.

The Pocantico Center of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Elly Weisenberg Kelly, Manager of Public Programs

The Pocantico Center of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund has offered a number of virtual lectures, tours and performances since we had to close our doors in March 2020. We are thrilled to announce that our 2021 summer performance series will be presented in person and outdoors for small audiences. As our way of saying thank you to the incredible Westchester community, we are offering tickets to first responders, frontline workers and other community groups.
Performances include Dance Lab New York on June 9, jazz saxophonist Melissa Aldana Quartet on July 13, “Unspoken Tales” on August 3 and A Palo Seco Flamenco on September 13.

**Smart Arts at Westchester Community College**

*Paula Rubenstein, Director of Smart Arts Performance Academy*

In fall 2021, the *Office of Cultural Affairs at Westchester Community College* will continue to present “Smart Arts Virtual: The Sage Stage,” which features two videos per month from September through December to a limited audience. In the Winter/Spring 2022, there are plans to open the campus theater with “live” in-person performances from January through May 2022, featuring one performance per month. Plans to reopen the theater in the Hankin Academic Arts Building are subject to both SUNY guidelines and Westchester Community College’s campus guidelines and policies; both still pending.

**Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation**

*Judy Ross, Community Relations Director*

**Steffi Nossen School of Dance** is looking forward to dancing in the studio beginning June 28, getting our studios ready for summer camps and intensives for preschoolers to pre-professional dancers, and giving students a diverse dance experience while enhancing their technical and artistic growth. We will offer one- to three-week camps and intensives in creative movement, ballet, modern, jazz, hip-hop, musical theater and composition, as well as early-evening drop-in Zoom classes in modern, jazz, and conditioning for adults and teens. Health and safety guidelines will be strictly observed. This is a great opportunity to build communication skills and self-assurance while exploring creativity in a small intimate group setting.

**Village Squares Quilters**

*Sheryl Fleishaker of Village Squares Quilters*

**Village Squares Quilters** are looking forward to reopening their meetings this coming September. The guild meets in Scarsdale at
the Westchester Reform Congregation on the second Tuesday of the month. Anyone interested in joining a welcoming group of people who would love to meet fellow interested quilters can email vsq@villagesquaresquilters.com.

**Westchester Children’s Museum**  
*Katherine Berthod, Office Manager*

After a year of patiently anticipating a responsible time to reopen, we are happy to announce that *Westchester Children’s Museum* will be reopening on June 26, with a special members-only soft opening on June 19. The Museum is CDC-compliant and has made changes to keep guests and staff safe and healthy. While not required, guests may purchase tickets in advance to expedite the check-in process.

**The Westchester Chorale**  
*Frances Snedeker, President*

*The Westchester Chorale* is delighted to announce that our voices will once again be heard in southern Westchester. On December 11, our concert, “Voices of Jubilation,” will ring from the rafters of Larchmont Avenue Church. Under the skilled direction of Douglas Kostner, we are already rehearsing Dan Forrest’s *Jubilate Deo*, a musical message of celebration, as well as Kostner’s newest choral composition, which proclaims our joy to be singing together again. These two exquisite pieces, along with the accompaniment of the Westchester Children’s Chorus, will make the holiday season even more special. Contact: WestchesterChorale@gmail.com.

**The Westchester Chordsmen**  
*Stephen Banker, President*

Since group singing has been one of the more hazardous activities for spreading COVID-19, *The Westchester Chordsmen* have been particularly careful, limiting our activities to virtual only. Only two weeks ago we approved outdoor rehearsals for fully vaccinated members (a large majority of us). With the latest CDC guidance, we hope to resume weekly, in-person indoor rehearsals soon. We are already planning for our live annual Youth Festival to be held in November and our Holiday Show in December, and look forward to in-person "Singing Valentines," free singing lessons, a spring show and a competition in the first half of 2022.

**Westchester Symphonic Winds**  
*Curt Ebersole, Conductor/Music Director*

Westchester Symphonic Winds started in person rehearsals in April with 6-12 vaccinated, masked, distanced players at a time, using bell covers at Tarrytown Music Hall (TMH). Rehearsals are continuing in an outdoor tent throughout May and June, with masks, bell covers, and distancing. We will perform at Caramoor on July 4 with an ensemble made up of vaccinated players. We will reassess the New York State protocols in September before reconvening full ensemble indoor rehearsals. We aim to restart public performances as scheduled on November 14 at TMH, following State audience protocols, and hope to livestream the performance as well.

**White Plains Performing Arts Center**  
*Kathleen Davisson, General Manager*

*White Plains Performing Arts Center* will reopen with live in-person concerts beginning in July. A full 2021-22 Season will be announced in early June, including a subscription series of Mainstage musical productions, concerts and special events. Also beginning in July is the 17th season of Summer Theatre Academy, our summer theatre camp for students ages 7-17. Our facility has been thoroughly cleaned and has installed a state-of-the-art HVAC system. We have hand sanitizer stations in place throughout the lobby and plexiglass barriers in areas of high person-to-person contact. We look forward to welcoming our loyal audience back with open arms to our new COVID safe environment.

**Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra**  
*Victoria Jimpson-Fludd, President of the Board of Directors*

*Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra* (YP0) returns to the concert stage, in phases, from July to October. All concerts are aired at YPO@HOME. In Mid-July, YPO celebrates its return to the concert stage – without a live audience when YPO’s brass ensemble performs in the Hudson River Museum’s amphitheater. On August 20, YPO closes out the Hudson River Museum’s summer outdoor, live audience concert series. YPO’s string ensemble performs American music celebrating “Wall Power,” an exhibition of quilts from the American Folk Art Museum. The concert will air in September. In Mid-October, with COVID conditions permitting, YPO performs its first indoor, on-stage, live audience concert of its new 2021/2022 season.
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.

800 Words (Acorn)

Another Australian/New Zealand show of pure delight. A man moves to a town like none other with his two children after the tragic death of his wife. The escape becomes a new life, and we are treated to the (mostly) delightful neighbors. I say “mostly” because there are also the bad ex-husbands, the bullying teenage girl and the unscrupulous business people. But luckily there is also the wonderful teacher, art gallery owner and the fellow surfer who becomes a guardian angel… lots of great quirky characters.

Children are born, grow and put their parents through trials and tribulations. People get over their past and fall in love. All seems so familiar, right? Could this be us? Maybe, except for the fact that we don’t live in this gorgeous, intimate, somewhat incestuous, and completely vulnerable place called Weld. So, enough fantasy and stories are there to make this a totally enjoyable series that gets tied with a beautiful bow at the end. However, by the end, we may indeed think of ourselves as a citizen of Weld. The success of this show is that as a viewer you can be enough of an outsider to peek in, but also be enough of an insider to feel very deeply about the townspeople we are privileged to grow to love.

Poetry "Emerges" Throughout Westchester

Poems are coming up like crocuses. From Yorktown to Yonkers and Peekskill to Port Chester, local poets are emerging from quarantines and lockdowns, inspired by the burgeoning signs of spring and summer.

Beginning in mid-June, established and up-and-coming poets will read their original poems from various locations in a “Emergence Poetry Pop-Ups” video series that will highlight the nooks, crannies and natural beauty of Westchester County.

The ArtsWestchester series and social media campaign, created in collaboration with Hudson Valley Writers Center, is curated by Westchester Youth Poet Laureate Danielle Kohn and Poet Laureate BK Fischer.

Poets will report from all corners of the county and will represent a variety of styles, forms and backgrounds, all sharing in the energy of this season of renewal—energizing activism, awareness and acts of attention. A variety of page and performance poems in the midst of reviving public life will be shared through Labor Day.

To find the latest poet-in-the-spotlight, readers can follow the hashtag #westchesterpoetry, visit ArtsWestchester’s YouTube playlist, and find a featured location on the Google Map, which will represent all submissions by location.
From floral mugs and whimsical plates, to one-of-a-kind vases and more, Clay Art Center (CAC)’s **Spring Fest** will showcase the diverse richness of Westchester’s pottery scene. The biennial event on June 5 will offer an outdoor pottery sale filled with hundreds of handmade ceramic works by local and tristate area artists at a reduced price.

In the past, Spring Fest has been held indoors; however, to allow audiences a way to immerse themselves in CAC’s long-running hub for ceramic artists as safely as possible, this year’s event will be held entirely outdoors.

Executive Director Emily Peck explains: “This event is always fun for the whole family, with great pottery bargains and clay activities, including a live raku firing. In fact, one-hundred percent of revenues will support Clay Art Center.”

The Center will round out this robust experience with live outdoor artist demonstrations and hands-on children’s clay activities. Throughout the event, guests will be able to experience pottery-making up close during wheel-throwing demonstrations led by CAC artists. A demonstration of the raku firing technique will also invite families to buy an unfinished piece of pottery and observe as it is glazed and fired in an outdoor kiln.

In addition, the Center’s gallery will be open for guests to tour its current exhibition, **State of Emergence**, presented in partnership with The Color Network. Fifteen emerging artists of color were asked to analyze current issues of race, racism, ethnicity and sexism that are prevalent in modern society. The works also comment on the present barriers found in the ceramic field, such as the lack of opportunities, resources and physical community, which has driven many artists to connect with each other online. Exhibiting works, on view through June 13, range from hand-built figurative sculpture to wheel-thrown glazed forms.

**Spring Fest** will be held outside of the Center’s gallery entrance in Port Chester per COVID-19 guidelines. Guests will be required to wear masks and follow social-distancing protocols during the event.
Art Conservation: From Mummies to Hornets’ Nests

by Megan Thomson-Connor

"Treated and mounted a six-foot-long taxidermy Monitor lizard, part of a modern art installation."

"Rewrapped an Ancient Roman human mummy."

Who would have these types of credentials on their resume? Art Conservators. In this case, the team at A.M. Art Conservation and The Found Object Art Conservation.

When most people hear the term “art conservation,” white gloves and a laboratory come to mind; others may think of workers revealing the vibrant colors of the Sistine Chapel ceiling behind centuries-old layers of soot.

According to Anne King of A.M. Art Conservation: "We often get lumped together with art restorers. Art conservation is actually a newish profession that branched away from restorers around the early to mid part of the 1900s."

She explains: “Art conservation follows a different approach: rather than focusing solely on how an object looks – and trying to make it look new again – our aim is to preserve the historical, artistic and scientific integrity of a work.”

Surprisingly, there is a lot of scientific knowledge required. Conservators need to understand the science and technology behind all of the materials they are handling. As their work is generally to preserve objects for future generations, they need to know that not only will the repair materials last the test of time, but that those repairs can be reversed in the event that new techniques and understandings are adopted in the future.

Kerith Koss Schrager, Founder and Principal Conservator at The Found Object Art Conservation, adds: "Every object has a story and we are the caretakers that allow that story to be told. As conservators, we take that responsibility very seriously and understand that any of the choices we make may alter how that object is interpreted in the future."

Schrager shares a studio space in ArtsWestchester’s White Plains building with the A.M. Art Conservation trio comprised of King, Rachael Arenstein and Eugenie Milroy. All four women are members of the American Institute for Conservation and have extensive experience at major international museums such as Metropolitan Museum of Art, American Museum of Natural History, Brooklyn Museum, Field Museum of Chicago, and more.

Object conservators treat, repair or stabilize, and preserve three-dimensional items, but they often focus on a specialty. For example, Schrager specializes in inorganic objects (ceramics, metals, glass). She is currently completing her Masters in Environmental
Health and Safety while publishing, lecturing and advising collections caretakers on the health and safety concerns of hazardous collection materials (think of all that dust). Arenstein specializes in archaeological objects and preventive care (such as pest control, materials selection and environmental monitoring). Her business partners Milroy and King specialize in the treatment of organic objects (wood, plant materials, bone, ivory, feather, hair, fur, horn, taxidermy, etc.) Milroy has a particular interest in modern art and sculpture and King in indigenous artifacts.

"These are general descriptions of our specialties," says King. "Our work overlaps considerably. Many artifacts have a combination of material types that require attention from more than one of us. That's what makes us such a strong team. We can treat virtually any object."

As far as favorite projects, "just from the top of [King’s] head," the list holds some significant weight: "a bonded bronze sculpture by contemporary artist Michael Richards, a Civil War-era drum, historical Tibetan coins, indigenous artifacts from the Alan Stone collection, a Napoleonic era bone ship model made by prisoners of war, Dr. Seuss sculptures, historical jewelry..."

Just about anyone who has a valued item to be preserved is a potential client. This mostly means private owners or collectors, private companies with art collections, museums and galleries, historic homes, arts and culture foundations, outdoor sculpture gardens and insurance companies.

However, an object need not have monetary value to be worth the investment of conservation. For example, Westchester’s Stepping Stones Foundation, which manages the historic home of Bill and Lois Wilson in Katonah, asked A.M. Art Conservation to conserve a hornets’ nest. While not a rare object, they considered this to be an important piece in the preservation of the story of the Wilsons, who were the co-founders of Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon Family Groups.

"The context of a work and how that interweaves with the culture it comes from takes equal place in our efforts," says King. "In that respect, we are as much detectives as scientists. That’s a part of the job we all really enjoy."
Virtual Event | WED., JUN. 23, 8–9:30pm

BALLROOM: Underground or Mainstream

This panel discussion will focus on the origins of the house and ballroom community, taking us on a journey from its underground roots to its mainstream emergence. We will hear from Ballroom stars, statements and legends (all cast members on HBO Max’s Legendary season 2) as they discuss the pros and cons of this evolution. Moderated by choreographer for FX’s Pose, LGBTQ+ youth advocate and ballroom Legend Twiggy Pucci Garçon.

Register on Zoom at: https://bit.ly/34cfdFb

Left to Right: Tati Miyake Mugler, Twiggy Pucci Garçon, Milan Garçon, ChaCha Balenciaga, Jacen Prodigy

Virtual Event | WED., JUN. 30, 8–9pm

The Art of Lip Sync

Lip sync is a queer folk art and the ultimate form of drag expression. Join us for a lively discussion with the legendary John Epperson (aka Lypsinka), moderated by Drag King Maxxx Pleasure. The conversation will focus on tricks of the trade and do and don’ts, as well as personal stories and reflections.

Register on Zoom at: https://bit.ly/3DFPvC

Left to Right: Lypsinka (photo credit: Josef Astor), Maxxx Pleasure (photo credit: Francine Daveta)

This ArtsWestchester Folk Arts Program is made possible, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Sponsored by:

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June 2021
Arts Offerings

Blue Surf by David Greene, on view in Blue Door Art Center’s Colors of Spring exhibition through 6/12 (photo source: bluedoorartcenter.org)

upcoming virtual and in-person arts activities

6/1 TUESDAY

Tours: Lyndhurst presents Daily Grounds Pass. This pass offers general admission to the property between the hours of 9:30 am with last entry at 3 pm as the property closes at 4:30 pm. Tours held through 8/31. lyndhurst.org

Tours: Lyndhurst presents Gardens and Grounds Tour. This in-person tour traverses the upper eastern portion of the property and takes visitors through the 1911 rose garden, the 1811 frame of the Lord & Burnham greenhouse and more. Through 6/27. Fri-Sun: 10:30, 11:30am & 12:30pm. lyndhurst.org

Festivals: ArtsWestchester, Westchester African American Advisory Board, White Plains Juneteenth Heritage Inc., and the Juneteenth Committees of Mount Vernon, Peekskill, Yonkers, Irvington and Haverstraw present A Virtual Countywide Juneteenth Kickoff Program. This virtual program, featuring lectures, music and dance, will mark the beginning of a month-long celebration of Juneteenth activities throughout the County. 7pm via Facebook and Zoom. artsw.org/juneteenth2021

6/2 WEDNESDAY

The Juneteenth Council in Ossining, in collaboration with the Village of Ossining, present A Flag Raising in Honor of Juneteenth. The official Juneteenth flag at Market Square will be flown throughout the entire month of June to honor the freedom of formerly enslaved Africans in America. 9am at corner of Main St and Spring St.

6/4 FRIDAY

Film: Axial Theatre presents “Paint Made Flesh” By Howard Meyer. The filmed version of Meyer’s play which was presented at The Cell in New York City in 2018 will be available for streaming for one weekend. Also 6/5, 6/6. axialtheatre.org

Theater: M&M Performing Arts Company, Inc. presents Sherlock Holmes: A Scandal in Bohemia. This is an in-person, site-specific production will bring Sherlock Holmes to life at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum. Through June 13. 6:30-7:45pm at Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum. bartowpellmansionmuseum.org

6/5 SATURDAY

Festivals: Clay Art Center presents Spring Fest Giant Outdoor Pottery Sale & Fun Activities for the Whole Family. This in-person event will include a display of mugs, bowls, plates, platters, vases and more. 10am-3pm. clayartcenter.org

6/6 SUNDAY

Music: The Sanctuary Series presents The Master’s Work: Anthony Newman reveals the genius of Bach. Newman will perform Preludes and Fugues from the Well-Tempered Clavier and two of the composer’s great organ works. This in-person event will also be live-streamed on Facebook. 4-5:15pm at South Salem Presbyterian Church. thesanctuaryseries.org

6/7 MONDAY

Lectures: Color Camera Club of Westchester presents Food Photography. This Zoom presentation will offer an overview of what it takes to create food photographs. 7:30-9:30pm. cccw.clubexpress.com

6/8 TUESDAY

Reception: Warner Library presents Author Visit. The library will host Barbara Page, author of “Book Marks: An Artist’s Card Catalog: Notes from the Library of My Mind” via Zoom. 7-8:15pm. warnerlibrary.org

6/10 THURSDAY

Music: Irvington Theater presents Sunset Cinema: “Amazing Grace”. The Sunset Cinema series will kick off with an in-person screening of this film, which follows legendary vocalist Aretha Franklin as she recorded her 1972 live album. At Main
exhibitions, classes and ongoing events

Street School Lawn. irvingtontheater.com
Reception: Clay Art Center presents Virtual Artist Talk with Mike Stumbras. Stumbras will speak about his journey, clay and the peculiarities in the connections between 18th century European production ceramics and contemporary studio ceramic practices. 7-8pm. clayartcenter.org

6/12 SATURDAY
Music: Westchester Children’s Chorus presents Spring Concert. The concert will feature students in grades 2-12. 1:30-4:30pm at Constitution Park. wcchorus.org
Theater: Hudson Stage Company presents Virtual Staged Reading of Do Not Go, My Love. This short and original one-act by Enid Graham will be live-streamed and available via Youtube, Facebook and Twitter for four consecutive days following. 8pm. hudsonstage.com

The City of White Plains presents Juneteenth Heritage Festival. This virtual program will have live music performances, a flag-raising ceremony and an ancestral prayer, and more. The festival will also include past parade and festival footage. 11am-1pm via the White Plains Juneteenth Heritage Facebook page.

6/13 SUNDAY
Music: PJS Jazz Society presents Virtual Jazz Concert. This jazz concert will feature music by saxophonist and vocalist Camille Thurman. 6-7pm. pjsjazz.org

6/14 MONDAY
Lectures: Color Camera Club of Westchester presents Noted Photographer Matt Licari. This is a studio tour and interactive discussion with a NYC based fashion, beauty, celebrity and reportage photographer. 7:30-9:30pm. cccw.clubexpress.com
Tours: Pelham Art Center presents Virtual Studio Visit: Matthew Cole. This is a studio tour and interactive discussion with the 2021 Rutsch Award winner. 6-7pm. pelhamartcenter.org

6/16 WEDNESDAY
Pelham Public Library presents a Juneteenth Program with Artist Atiba Wilson. A demonstration, “We Who Believed in Freedom, Did Not Rest!” discussing the participation of Blacks in the struggle for self-emancipation. Music, poetry and storytelling will be included in the presentation. 7:30-8:30pm.

6/18 FRIDAY
Music: Jazz Forum Arts, Inc. presents Bill Charlap Trio. Pianist Bill Charlap leads his trio in a pair of in-person jazz concerts. 7 & 9:30pm. Also 6/19. jazzforumarts.org
Spoken Word: Hudson Valley Writers Center presents Open Mic (via Zoom). This is an opportunity to share talents in a comfortable space. 7:30-9:30pm. writerscenter.org

6/19 SATURDAY
Idea Committee of Bedford presents Juneteenth: Freedom Day. This outdoor event will discuss the history of Juneteenth and Bedford’s Black history told by members of the community, with performances by Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation and live jazz by Shirazette and Sonic Wallpaper Band. 2-4pm at Bedford Village Memorial Park.
Music: Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts presents Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. This in-person concert will kick off the season at an opening night gala. 6pm at Venetian Theater. caramoor.org
Music: Music Conservatory of Westchester presents Juneteenth Celebration Concert. This in-person celebration will include a flag raising, followed by a block party with music by a live band and DJ Ginny Norfleet.

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concert will feature musical performances by the music school’s faculty. 7-9pm. musicconservatory.org

**Festivals:** Haverstraw African American Connection presents a *Juneteenth Celebration.* This event will feature gospel music by Anointed Friends, Lorraine Stancil, Minister Angel Brooks and Richard Smith and Friends. 3pm at 41 Clinton Street in Haverstraw.

**Festivals:** The Juneteenth Council in Ossining, in collaboration with the Town of Ossining, presents *Second Annual Juneteenth Celebration.* The event will feature spoken word, dance and musical performances. 12pm at the Ossining Riverfront.

**Festivals:** The City of Mount Vernon presents a *Juneteenth Celebration.* Families and children will be able to play an interdepartmental Negro League game of baseball, followed by an in-person concert in Brush Park.

**Festivals:** The City of New Rochelle, in partnership with The Lincoln Park Conservancy, Inc., present *Passion and Perseverance.* This community Juneteenth celebration will include dance performances, history presentations, films, jazz performances, dance, spoken word and more. 9am-9pm at multiple venues around the City.

**Festivals:** The City of Peekskill Youth Bureau presents a *Juneteenth Freedom Day.* The event will feature music, spoken word, dance, freedom tributes and production by New Era Creative Space. 1-3pm at Depew Park.

**Festivals:** Peekskill NAACP will present a *virtual Juneteenth Celebration.* This live-streamed event will celebrate the area’s matriarchs with songs of freedom. 6pm via the organization’s YouTube page.

**6/21 MONDAY**

**Lectures:** Color Camera Club of Westchester presents *Self-portrait: A journey of discovery, healing and emergence through photography.* Ocean is an award-winning photographer with nearly twenty years of experience. 7:30-9:30pm. cccw.clubexpress.com

**6/23 WEDNESDAY**

**Music:** Irvington Theater presents *One Thing I Want You to Know.* This livestream production centers members of the LGBTQIA+ community who share their art and their stories with Irvington audiences. Streaming on demand at the Theater’s website from through 6/25. irvingtontheater.com/oneathing

**6/25 FRIDAY**

**Music:** Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts presents *A Piano Recital by Richard Goode.* This live performance is celebration for Stephen Sondheim’s 91st birthday. 8pm at Venetian Theater. caramoor.org

**6/28 MONDAY**

**Lectures:** Color Camera Club of Westchester presents *Alan Hans presents “Streetwise” Shooting in NYC.* This Zoom presentation will explore Hans’ black and white photos that depict life on the urban street almost exclusively shot in New York City. 7:30-9:30pm. cccw.clubexpress.com

**6/30 WEDNESDAY**

**Spoken Word:** Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *An evening with Sumita Chakraborty, Cortney Lamar Charleston, & Carey Salerno on Zoom.* This evening will include virtual readings of award-winning new poetry. 7-8:30pm. writerscenter.org

**Lectures:** ArtsWestchester and LOFT: LGBTQ+ Center present *Ballroom: Underground or Mainstream* in honor of Pride Month. This virtual panel discussion, moderated by choreographer for FX’s *Pose,* LGBTQ+ youth advocate and ballroom legend Twiggy Pucci Garçon, will focus on the origins of the house and ballroom community with Ballroom stars, statements and legends. 8-9:30pm via Zoom and Facebook. artsw.org

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Arc Stages is offering acting classes and performance workshops for all ages.

ArtsWestchester presents Together apART: Creating During COVID, an in-person and online exhibition that reflects individual contemplations on the year of the pandemic (IN PERSON). The show will be on view through August 1. Gallery hours: Wed-Fri & Sun: 12-5pm, Saturday 12-6pm. The organization also offers ArtsMobile activities, Teen Tuesdays & Thursdays program and more.

Blue Door Art Center presents Colors of Spring, an in-person and virtual exhibition of paintings, sculpture, clay work, photos, prints and other works that embrace the colors of spring. The exhibition is on view through June 12. Gallery hours: Thurs: 3-6pm, Fri: 3-6pm, Sat: 1-6pm.

Bedford Playhouse’s Virtual Playhouse brings a selection of interactive programs, from comedies to environmental documentaries, author talks, weekly trivia for kids and more.

Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts’ grounds will be open and free to the public Fridays through Sundays from June 11 through October 10. Visitors can discover site-specific installations, part of an annual exhibition of sound art called “Sonic Innovations,” from Friday to Sunday. Live-streamed concerts and past performances by world-renowned artists are also available on youtube.com/caramoor.

Center for the Digital Arts at Westchester Community College hosts classes online and via remote learning. The Center offers digital arts education, including web development, 2D/3D animation, digital video and more. Click here for the full list of classes. Interested students should contact Dr. Sherry Mayo at sherry.mayo@sunywcc.edu or 914-606-7385.

Clay Art Center is open for on-site visits and open studio sessions by appointment (IN PERSON). The Center also offers virtual classes, artist lectures and demonstrations, as well as a virtual and in-person exhibition, State of Emergence, featuring ceramic works by emerging artists of color.

Color Camera Club of Westchester will be presenting photographic programs via Zoom. The club, in conjunction with Croton Council of the Arts, is presenting the virtual exhibit, “Visions During Lockdown,” featuring photographs that were either taken during the pandemic or photographs that express the feelings of the photographer about being in lockdown. Colorcameraclub.com

Copland House’s virtual performance and conversation series, UNDERSCORED, continues to offer premieres, revivals and classics by American composers.
Croton Council on the Arts and the Ossining Arts Council will host a virtual needle felting workshop with Jeanne-Noel Mahoney on June 26 at 4pm.

Downtown Music at Grace is broadcasting its noon concerts of chamber music and a variety of genres on its YouTube page.

Emelin Theatre is presenting a diverse roster of virtual events, including musical concerts and film screenings as part of its Film Club.

Greenburgh Arts and Culture Committee will host its Kids Short Story Connection series of Zoom writing workshops. Young writers aged 10-17 will work in a virtual, roundtable setting to develop their creativity, improve old stories and write new ones. (914) 682-1574, bracey0114@aol.com.

The Ground Glass presents The Written Word, an online exhibition featuring photographs that expresses and interprets the written media in daily lives. The group’s online photography exhibition, Abstractions, is also still on view. 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 will present From Seeds to Blooms, an exhibition by Annabel Romero and Layer By Layer, a virtual exhibit by Judith Weber. The library also hosts 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.

Hoff-Barthelson Music School offers a virtual Master Class Series, which consists of class coaching by guest artists, world-class musicians and educators.

Hudson River Museum presents Border Cantos | Sonic Border, a collaboration between photographer Richard Misrach and sculptor and composer Guillermo Galindo that addresses the humanitarian situation at the wall between the U.S. and Mexico (IN PERSON). Also on view: Librado Romero (IN PERSON) and Landscape Art & Virtual Travel: Highlights from the Collections of the HRM and Art Bridges (IN PERSON). Museum Hours: Thurs-Sun: 12–5pm.
Hudson Valley Museum of Contemporary Art is reopened by appointment, with an expanded exhibition of *How We Live*. Virtual tours, 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 in collaboration with Studio Theater in Exile: On view now

**Hudson Valley Writers Center** will present free readings throughout the month and a special offer on Slapering Hol Press chapbooks. A series of classes and readings, all online, are open for registration. For a complete list, visit [writerscenter.org](http://writerscenter.org).

- **The Interior Landscape**: a poetry intensive via Zoom: June 19 at 12:30pm
- **The Joy of Editing with Daniel Lawless & Frances Richey** via Zoom: June 13 at 12:30pm
- **The Art of Dramatic Writing for Stage, Screen, and Television** via Zoom: June 4-July 9 at 1:30-3:30pm

For more programs from Hudson Valley Writers Center, [click here](http://writerscenter.org).

**Jacob Burns Film Center** offers in-person screenings and continues to screen new releases and repertory films in its Virtual Screening Room.

**Jazz Forum Arts** continues its **Jazz Forum @ Home** series of concerts that are live-streamed on Facebook Live every Saturday at 7pm, and **Jitterbugs @ Home**, which provides online jazz classes for kids aged 2-5.

**John Jay Homestead**’s site 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** is displaying *Still/Live*, an exhibition that explores how contemporary artists working in photography, video, and new media are reimagining the genre of still life **(IN PERSON)**. Admission is by advance reservation. Hours: Tues-Sat: 10am-5pm, and Sun: 12-5pm.

**Lyndhurst Mansion** offers virtual offerings, such as 360 tours and online exhibitions.

- **Virtual Flower Show**: Now on view

**Mamaroneck Artists Guild** presents **Art Critique Sessions**, as part of its 2020-2021 Jump Start Your Art professional development series for emerging and established artists. Suggestions, encouragement and feedback are given to enable artists to grow and make progress in their chosen medium. June 2 and 16 at 4:30pm.

**Music at Asbury** will return to live performances on June 13 at 4pm with an outdoor program, “A Tribute to Jerome Kern.” Asbury Church has an outdoor chapel area adjacent to its parking lot, which will serve as the stage with audience members seated socially-distanced.
Neuberger Museum of Art is open to the public and presents new exhibitions featuring works from the museum’s collections: *African Art and Culture, Then and Now: Modern and Contemporary Selections* and *Color and Motion, Ideas and Dreams: Modern and Contemporary Caribbean and South American Art*. Pre-recorded 20-minute guided meditations are available on its website, as well as weekly art-related projects and activities for kids.

New Rochelle Council on the Arts presents “Juneteenth: A Narrative of Freedom,” an exhibition in honor of the annual holiday in Rotunda Gallery at City Hall. The exhibition will be on view for the month of June.

Oak & Oil Gallery will display Recent Works by Linda Puiatti on view through July 6. Her new ethereal abstract paintings will be showcased alongside her representational works of landscapes, barns, sky and waterways.

Pelham Art Center presents Matthew Cole as the winner of the 11th Biennial Alexander Rutsch Award for Painting. A solo exhibition of paintings by Cole will be on view through June 26 (IN PERSON). The exhibition also includes a selection of original works by Alexander Rutsch.

Pelham’s The Picture House offers film screenings via its virtual cinema and continues its Education at Home program, which presents short films with discussion questions and activities for students of any grade level.

The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College’s online offerings include a range of live, recorded and curated events, education and entertainment.

RiverArts presents Virtual Salon Sundays, a series of local artists’ studio tours on June 13 and 27 at 3pm.

The Rye Arts Center will present Summer Warm-Up for Creative Kids, an in-person educational, multi-disciplinary creative arts immersion program designed specifically for Pre-K children. Dates include: June 7-11, June 14-18, June 21-25 at 9:15-11:15am. The Center also offers in-person and virtual classes in drawing, painting, ceramics and more.

- **Crystals on Canvas** Workshop (Ages 9 & up): June 26 at 11am
- **Butterflies with the Glowforge Laser** (Virtual): June 3 at 4:30pm
- **Rye’s Above**, is public art collaboration between The Rye Arts Center and The Rotary Club of Rye

Steffi Nossen School of Dance will open its studio beginning June 28. The school will offer one- to three-week camps and intensives in a variety of styles, and early-evening drop-in Zoom classes in for adults and teens.

Tarrytown Music Hall “Night In With the Music Hall” series continues with weekly livestream concerts via its Facebook and YouTube pages.

Westchester Children’s Museum will reopen on June 26, with a special members-only soft opening on June 19. Additional details on health and wellness protocols are available online.

Westchester Collaborative Theater’s inaugural Hudson Valley New Voices Festival will present new dramatic works featuring the personal stories of members of our Senior Community on June 4-6 at 8 & 3pm. The Festival will also present readings of short plays by Black, Indigenous, and people of color on June 18-20 at 8 & 3pm.

White Plains Performing Arts Center presents its annual Summer Theatre Academy, a professional theatre training program for young actors. The program’s camps, which range from one to three weeks, will give students the chance to shine in new Broadway hits and beloved musical theatre classics.

White Plains Public Library webpage also provides online resources for families.

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