

# CentreArts

June 2020 || Volume 3, No. 1

Centre County  
Mini Museum  
*page 10*

Central PA Fes-  
tival of the Arts  
*page 9*

Bridging the  
Distance  
*page 2*

Recycled Show  
'Rings & Things'  
*page 3*

Art Alliance  
Summer Camps  
*page 5*

Barbara  
Metzner  
*page 4*

Friendship  
Bracelets  
*page 9*

The Makery  
& Pride Parade  
*page 3*

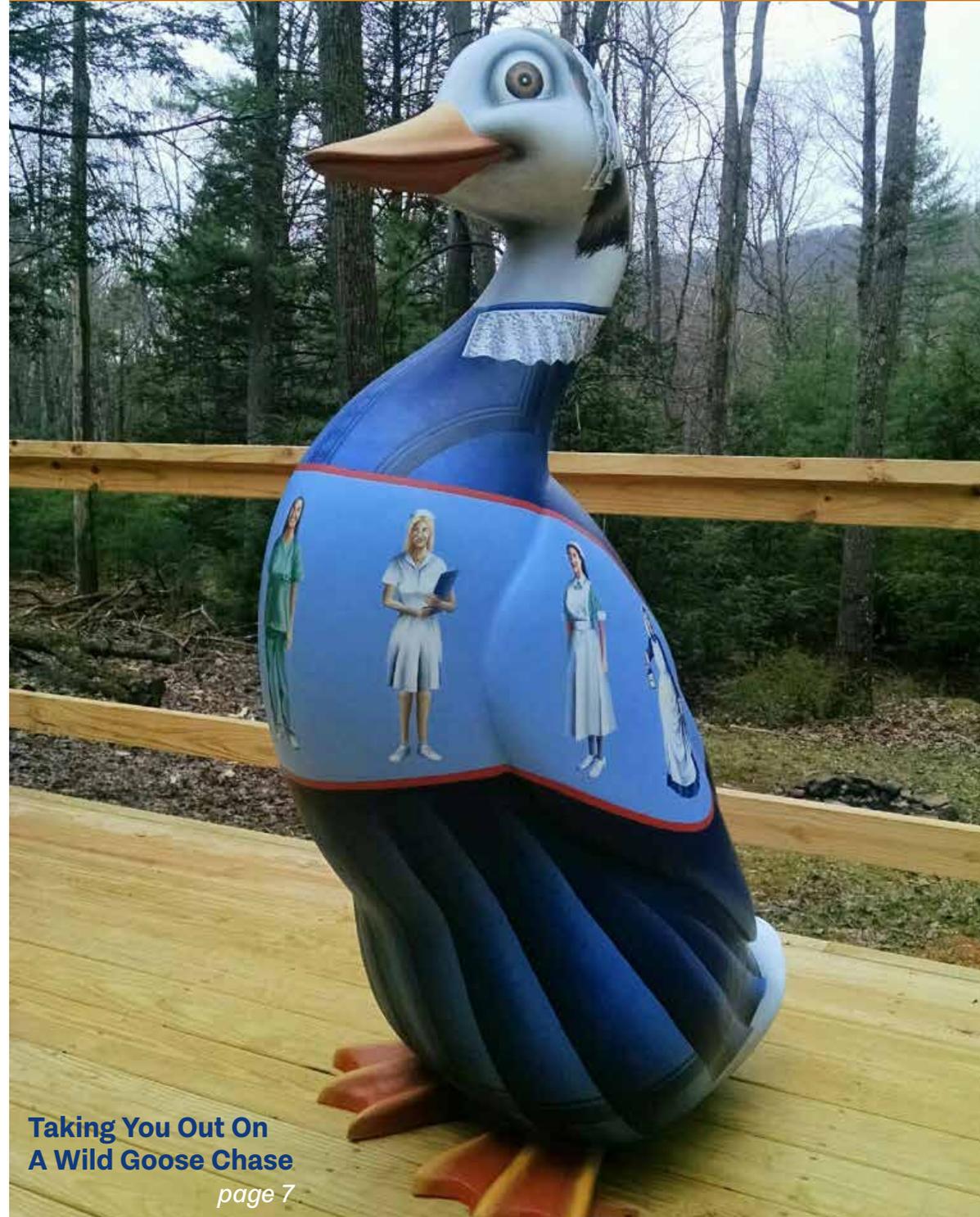
3Dots Goes  
Virtual  
*page 5*

FPA's new  
gallery online  
*page 10*

WPA arts  
*page 8*

Zoom Acrylics  
*page 6*

**Taking You Out On  
A Wild Goose Chase**  
*page 7*





images: top left, Alice Clark; next three, Kate Martin

## Bridging the Distance



It is not unusual for friends to decide to take a class together at the Art Alliance. What is unusual is when those friends live 200 miles apart, but now this is happening too! Since mid-March classes have been on Zoom so a difference in proximity doesn't matter.

State College resident Alice Clark says, "When I learned that one of my favorite instructors, Ingrid Morejohn, was teaching a gelli plate printing class I immediately called my sister-in-law Kate Martin who lives in Philadelphia and asked her to join the class with me. Kate and I always have an art project during the two weeks we take on hiking vacations with our husbands. With a canceled summer vacation, we decided to continue to enjoy our time and art together, this time online, thanks to the Art Alliance and Ingrid." 

## CentreArts

Centre Arts is a joint publication of the:

**Art Alliance of Central PA**

**3 Dots Downtown**

**The Makery**

### **Publishers**

Marie Doll, Art Alliance

Amy Frank, The Makery

Spud Marshall 3Dots

### **Managing editor**

R Thomas Berner

### **Associate editor**

Thomazine Shanahan

### **Designer**

Adrienne Waterston

### **On the web**

[artallianceofcentralpa.org](http://artallianceofcentralpa.org)

[3dotsdowntown.com](http://3dotsdowntown.com)

[themakerypa.com](http://themakerypa.com)

## The Makery to get kids involved in State College's first (virtual) PRIDE festival

The Centre LGBTQA Support Network (CLSN) will hold its first (virtual) PRIDE festival June 12–14. The CLSN is encouraging children to decorate their sidewalks with colorful chalk and send in photos for a virtual parade. Free chalk bundles are available at The Makery. The Makery has also created Rainbow Macrame Art Kits available at the studio for \$7. All proceeds benefit to CLSN. You can pick up a free chalk bundle and/or a macrame kit at The Makery on Wednesday or Thursday from 10–2pm. [CA](#)



## BAM to open Sept. 4

The Bellefonte Art Museum for Centre County is scheduled to reopen on Sept. 4. In the interim the Museum is providing an online version of its summer program, "An Imagination Celebration." The Museum has planned weekly activities and learning opportunities built around the theme "It's A Surreal World." [bellefontemuseum.org](http://bellefontemuseum.org) [CA](#)



## 'Rings & Things' The Art Alliance Recycled Show 2020 Goes Virtual

Dotty Ford's  
"The Time Keeper"

For the past 25 years the Art Alliance's Recycled Art Show has inspired environmental and artistic goals for Central Pennsylvania artists and has become one of the most popular shows in the organization's exhibition schedule. With a theme of "Rings and Things," this year's show again encourages the importance of recycling programs like the one we are fortunate to have in Centre County. Materials found in basements, garages, attics and landfills reappear as works of art.

"Rings and Things" features 21 pieces that will be presented in two formats. Although the Art Alliance's Downtown Gallery in the Martin Luther King Plaza on South Fraser Street is closed to visitors, the show will be installed in the gallery windows so that it can be enjoyed from outside.

The second format will be a virtual one, available on [artallianceofcentralpa.org](http://artallianceofcentralpa.org). After viewing all the pieces "visitors" will be encouraged to vote for their favorite piece for the Popular Award. [CA](#)

## Barbara Metzner, *in memoriam*

Barbara Metzner of State College was known for her passion for abstract art, which was characterized by inventiveness, a wide pallet of color and the unexpected. Her art work was widely acclaimed with prizes from the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts and the Art Alliance of Central Pennsylvania.

At the Art Alliance, she formed enduring friendships

with a group of artists, without whom, she said, she would be lost. The nine, whom Metzner named the Art Sisters, lunched together every Tuesday and even held Zoom lunches that Metzner attended into her final days.

Metzner died in May. For fourteen years she battled cancer with unbelievable will and courage, returning to the garden almost immediately after a mastectomy. Cancer eventually took her life but never her indomitable spirit.

She was an expert and creative chef, a devoted gardener, a natural dancer and an

---

*The Art Sisters lunched together every Tuesday and even held Zoom lunches that Metzner attended into her final days*

---

inveterate traveler. She has undertaken an archaeological dig in Egypt, lived and studied in Greece and has taught art at Jinan University in Shenzhen China. With her life partner, Geoffrey Godbey, she traveled to many countries, absorbing the culture and making friends. She served as the American mother for a number of Chinese, Taiwanese and Korean students, all of whom became an important part of her life, as she did of theirs. She treated people with dignity and respect, regardless of nationality, role or station in life.

At the age of 40, she entered Penn State University as a returning adult student, where she majored in sculpture, graduating with honors while raising three children.

Born in Southeast England in a Cromwell house on Jan. 13, 1946, Metzner grew up poor in New York City, moving

frequently and attending many schools. After high school, she worked as a travel agent in New York City. She married John Metzner in 1968 and lived in New York City, the suburbs of Detroit and in State College, where John was a professor of computer engineering at Penn State.

In lieu of flowers, gifts or cards, the family has asked that friends make a donation to the American Cancer Society "In Memory" of Barbara Metzner. On their website you can select to create an eCard with your personal words. Address the eCard to babxine@aol.com so the family will be able receive and read your card. Online condolences may be made at the Koch Funeral Home, State College, [www.kochfuneralhome.com](http://www.kochfuneralhome.com). 



photo courtesy of Barbara's family



photo courtesy of Deena Ultman

## Building a Virtual 3 Dots

By Spud Marshall



Tired of zoom meetings? Same here!

The team at 3 Dots has been thinking a lot about what makes for a great experience. In the season of COVID-19, the majority of our events and experiences have moved into the virtual space. Virtual has wonderful advantages. For example, it allows us to bring live local music right into your living room. But virtual also has its challenges.

If you're like us, you've probably been experiencing zoom fatigue. This is because the downside of 'most' virtual events is that you don't have control over who you watch, talk, or engage with. Virtual video events often lack autonomy. Prior to COVID-19 when we met in-person at 3 Dots, you could attend an event and choose to wander into the gallery and look at the art. But zoom meetings don't allow for that.

Which got us thinking... how could we re-create that experience, but virtually...

We're excited to unveil a Virtual 3 Dots in June where attendees of our events can do exactly that:

- virtually wander into the gallery to chat with an artist and view their work,
- virtually hang out at the piano on the sidewalk

and jam with a new friend,

- or virtually relax in the lounge and brainstorm ideas with local creatives.

On June 9 and June 23 from 5:30–7pm, we will be hosting Virtual Potluck Brainstorms where folks can hang out in our Virtual 3 Dots. We've received a grant from the Pennsylvania Humanities Council to build out this platform and we're excited to test it with the community to see what new use cases it might spark for others.

The virtual gatherings will be used to generate creative ideas that folks can use to apply for \$1000 from our monthly grant program. We've continued to fund some amazing projects the last few months, including a monthly farmers market subscription service in partnership with Taproot Kitchen and Centre Markets, as well as a seed fund for formerly incarcerated individuals looking to start their company. Our hope is that by meeting in a virtual 3 Dots, we'll be able to spark similarly creative ideas that make our town a great place to call home.

To sign-up, please visit our website to register. Space is limited so be sure to claim your spot!

[www.3dotstowntown.com](http://www.3dotstowntown.com) 

## Art Alliance Summer Camps

The Art Alliance's popular summer camp programs for youth ages 5 through teens will go forward this summer with a new look designed to follow the safety procedures recommended by the CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Health. In addition to the studio's indoor space, the patio and lawn areas will offer opportunities to do art outside under canopies.

Each week features a theme in a fun, creative and experimental environment using a range of materials and techniques. Popular themes from previous years such as "Story-book Landscapes & Recycled Art", "Comics, Cartoons, & More", and "Experiences With Clay" are repeated with themes of "Space Quest" and "Stenciling and T-Shirt Design" among the new ones this year.

Camps begin the week of June 22 and continue through August 21. Due to the decrease in the number of campers accepted each week, early registration is recommended. More information and registration is available at [artallianceofcentralpa.org](http://artallianceofcentralpa.org). 



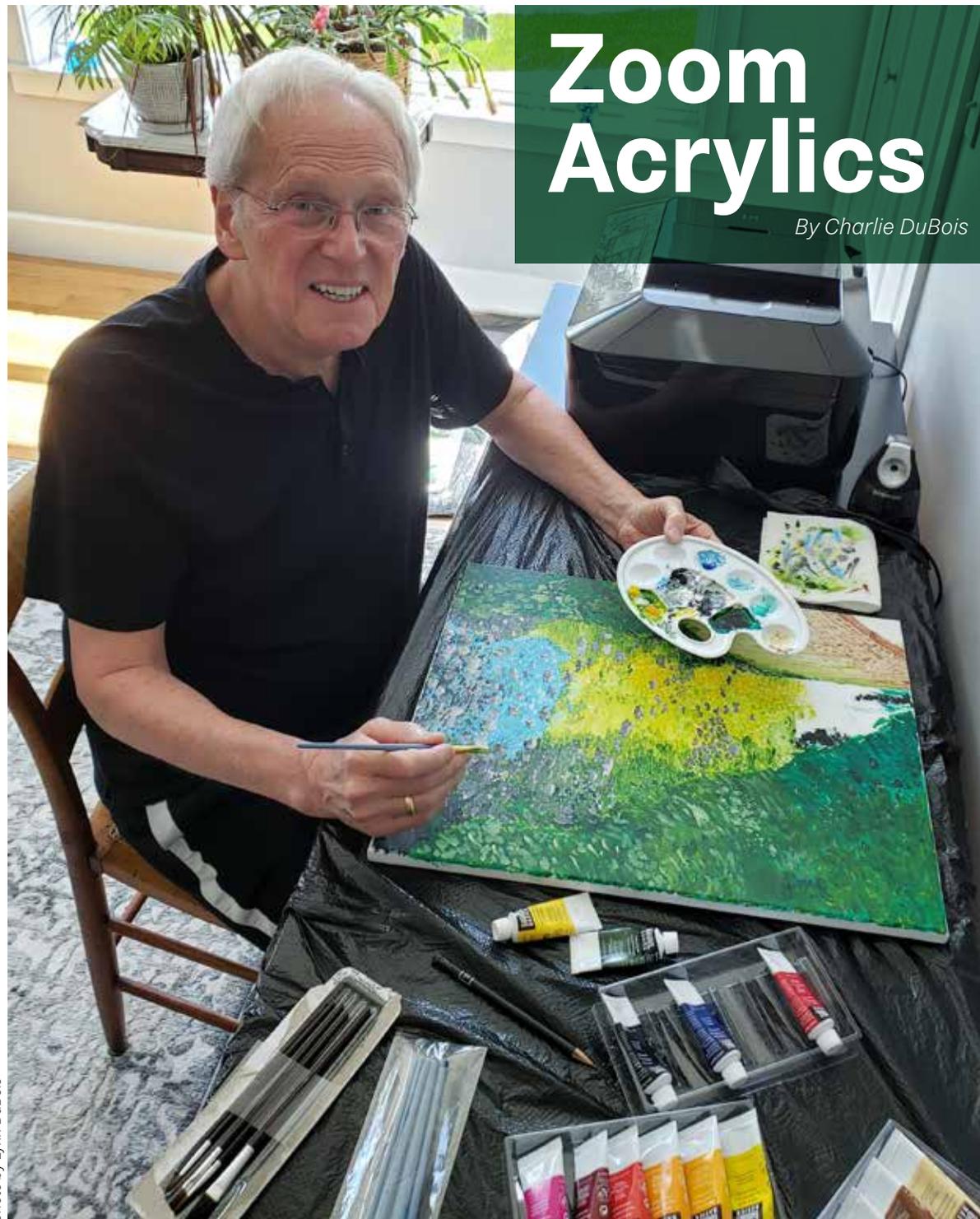


photo by Lynn DuBois

# Zoom Acrylics

By Charlie DuBois

When I registered for Bob Placky's Acrylics 101 (see May's *CentreArts*), it had been years since I picked up a paint brush with serious intent (other than to touch up a scrape on the living room wall).

Now in my fifth year as an Art Alliance member, I had taken several drawing classes, along with sessions in photography, gelli plate

printing, and stained glass, but not painting. It was a medium I was circling warily.

Prior to our first class in March, I touched base with Bob. It was around then, with the COVID-19 pandemic spreading across the U.S., he floated the notion of taking the class online.

Sure, my skittish brain thought, what could go wrong? I was rusty with the art form and

not so hot with the internet. Bewilderingly, my devil-may-care mouth said, "Sure, let's go for it." Now, weeks later, I'm glad I did.

Much was different, yet much was the same.

I did miss the delightfully funky atmosphere of the Alliance studio in Lemont, with its circle of easels and drawing tables, the shelves of supplies and half-finished work, and the paint-sprinkled floor dusted with graphite and charcoal. (Lacking a proper studio in our new home, I had to avoid spills on our rugs and hardwood.)

There were the technical glitches, either due to the inevitable learning curve with unfamiliar applications or "operator error," like my last-minute loss of a Zoom password before class.

I thought I'd miss the sight of my classmates, heads down over their latest projects, responding to Bob's energy and insights. I thought I would miss sharing with one another during breaks, and being inspired and challenged by what inspired people create. Most important, I thought I'd miss the face-to-face guidance from our teacher.

I found out all those things were there—it was just different.

Each week and between sessions, we were treated to images of master works and short videos to get our imaginations whirring. In class, Bob painted and sketched examples of techniques and styles while we dove in and tried them out. Each class led to homework, the results of which were shared and critiqued. Just seeing what my classmates made was an education in itself.

Over the course of two months, my Acrylics 101 journey took me from timid gestures in black and white through swings and misses to one or two pieces that felt all right.

Certainly, we were distanced. (And, certainly, painting is a solitary pursuit.) The internet can be a world of distractions, as can working from home. But given the right circumstances, online classes offer a kind of sharing that we shy away from in person. You can find yourself gazing longer at an image, listening more carefully, and taking in more deeply what another person is communicating.

These are ingredients for learning. CA

# Wild Geese Flock Together

Since last September, giant painted geese have been landing at sites throughout Mifflin and Juniata Counties. The Mifflin County Airport, Lewistown School of Nursing, Mifflin County Courthouse and Monument Square have all seen recent landings of these 5' fiberglass icons. Some Central Pennsylvania Art Alliance members are responsible for several of these latest arrivals. Artists Karl Leitzel, Jennifer Hartzler, Steve Torok and Jim Bright have all completed long term painted sculptures for businesses and industries in the nearby Juniata River Valley.

Many new themes are being explored for upcoming commissions and sites, including works by Art Alliance members Mike Demi and Tim Reeder. All of these artists have been recruited due to their strong ties to the region as well as their artistic skills.

Goose Day (a.k.a. Saint Michaelmas Day) is a long-standing tradition in the region. It promises

financial good fortune for dining on one of many local goose recipes. The celebration was unofficially started in 1786 and made official by local municipalities in 1976.

Sam Price, Ex. Dir., of Community Partnerships RC&D brought his vision of the Wild Goose influx to local civic leaders as a way to honor tradition and to enhance community spirit. His idea was met with enthusiasm by County Commissioners and by many business leaders. As

Price commissioned the production of the geese, he began talking with local artists and arts organizations about how to honor the beauty and history of the region graphically. Many themes, photographs, and historical accounts led to sketches and the eventual painted narratives.

For more information about these 'Wild Geese' and updates on new arrivals visit <http://www.cpartnerships.com/> CA

---

## *Goose Day (aka Saint Michaelmas Day) is a long-standing tradition*

---





Mural "Rachel Silverthorne's Ride" (1938) by John W. Beauchamp in the Muncy Post Office, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, USA

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>

## Art in a time of crisis

by Dot Cecil

The Work Progress Administration (WPA) was an ambitious employment and infrastructure program created by President Roosevelt during the Great Depression. The Federal Art Program was part of the WPA and employed artists with a wide variety of experiences and styles. Murals were painted in post offices across the United States and posters were created to advertise local exhibits, theatre productions and health and education programs.

Artists were also hired to teach classes for children. Dot Cecil, an Art Alliance member and resident of Foxdale Village, remembers as an eight- and nine-year-old taking WPA sponsored classes in Birmingham, Michigan, in the 1930s. She loved all of her classes at the "Saturday Art Club" particularly making puppets and having puppet shows. The instructors came from the prestigious Cranbrook Art Institute in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Dot states "These classes were the beginning of my life-long interest and love of art. I think the art camps and classes at the Art Alliance are giving students the same important foundation in art that has been so important in my life." CA



<https://rddaily.blogspot.com/2019/09/wpa-art-classes-for-children-in-north.html>

Poster for Detroit Federal Theatre Project presentation of "It Can't Happen Here" by Sinclair Lewis at the Lafayette Theatre [Michigan : Federal Art Project, 1936 or 1937]

"Children working at their easels in a child art class in the WPA Federal Art Gallery in Winston-Salem, N.C." some time between 1935-1943 (photo from the National Archives)



<https://www.loc.gov/item/98513193/>

## The Makery and the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts present 'Tying Us Together'

Friendship bracelets—lengths of braided colored string—are a fun reminder of summer.

In any given year, lots of young people make these bracelets to sell in Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts' Children and Youth Sidewalk Sale. This year, The Makery is helping Arts Fest to continue that tradition—with a twist—as a part of this summer's virtual Arts Festival.

In a project called "Tying Us Together" The Makery is asking kids (of all ages!) to make friendship bracelets between now and the beginning of July, sharing some with their friends and donating the remainder to the Festival.

The organizations created simple instructions and filmed a how-to video, now posted on YouTube. You can also pick up a FREE KIT at The Makery Wednesdays or Thursdays between 10 and 2pm. [CA](#)



2020 CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS  
HAPPENING WHEREVER YOU ARE

### CPFA Poster Update

While this summer's Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts will be taking place in the "virtual" world due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Festival organizers have kept the tradition of issuing a collectible Festival poster.

The 24" by 36" poster, sponsored by Penn State Health, was designed by longtime Festival poster designer Lanny Sommese and his daughter Saige. In a subtle nod to a summer without a festival, most of the images found in the typical festival poster—the Festival jester, references to art, music, and theatre, are missing. Instead, a simple sunrise, rising over a stylized Happy Valley landscape, symbolizes optimism and hope for better days in the future.

"When we were discussing canceling this summer's Festival, we felt it was important to continue the tradition of the real Festival poster. Instead of referencing downtown State College and the Penn State campus, the poster's text says "happening wherever you are", noted Festival executive director, Rick Bryant.

The poster is free and can be picked up at several local businesses, including:

- Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts  
403 S. Allen Street, Suite 205A, State College
- Downtown State College Improvement District  
127 S. Fraser Street, State College
- State College Framing Company and Gallery  
160 Rolling Ridge Drive, State College
- The Makery  
209 W. Calder Way, State College
- Art a la Carte  
107 S. Allegheny Street, Bellefonte
- [arts-festival.com](http://arts-festival.com)
- [firstnightstatecollege.com](http://firstnightstatecollege.com)
- [bookfestpa.org](http://bookfestpa.org)
- Juniata River Valley Visitors Bureau  
One West Market Street, Lewistown

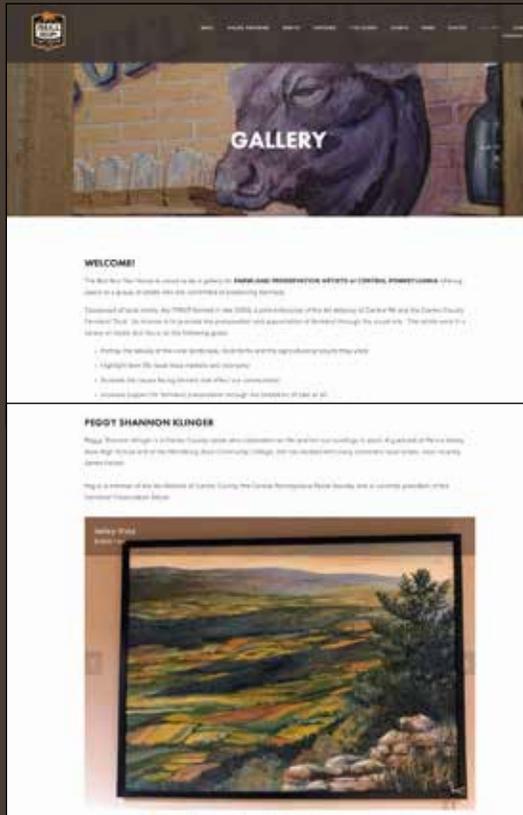
After July 12, any remaining posters will be available for sale on the Festival's website.

Poster designer Lanny Sommese is emeritus Professor of Graphic Design at Penn State. Saige Sommese is a 2018 graduate of Penn State's graphic design program and is the principal in her own design firm. For over 40 years, the elder Sommese has designed the colorful posters for the Arts Festival. The entire collection is on display in Penn State's HUB-Robeson Center.

The Festival is made possible by grant support from the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau and Centre County Commissioners. The Festival receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

The festival will take place from July 9 to July 12 on the Festival's website, [arts-festival.com](http://arts-festival.com). [CA](#)

## FPA has new ONLINE gallery!



Not only has the Farmland Preservation Artists of Central Pennsylvania opened a second gallery, this one has gone online since opening. The gallery is at the Bull Run Taphouse in Lewisburg. The web address is [www.thebullruntaphouse.com/gallery](http://www.thebullruntaphouse.com/gallery). FPA is an affiliate of the Art Alliance of Central Pennsylvania. 



## New Centre County Mini Museum project launches

As a way to bring artists virtually together during the COVID-19 stay at home time, State College artist Karen Deutsch and friends have come up with a plan to create a mini museum.

With everyone working from home, perhaps with limited space and materials, the idea is to make use of what people have on hand. Artists can create a mini gallery and post pictures online of their works in progress. The Centre County Mini Museum project has set up a Facebook Group, a website and an Instagram page to document everyone's progress.

Then, when it looks like it is safe to get together, the group will bring all the galleries together to create an actual, physical, mini museum. They are currently looking for places to display the work and anticipate it will be some time later this summer.

You can find gallery specifications and contact information on their website, [centrecountymuseum.org](http://centrecountymuseum.org), or email them at [centrecountymuseum@gmail.com](mailto:centrecountymuseum@gmail.com). 



From top left:  
Tiina Allik & Scott Camazine  
Karen Deutsch

From top right:  
Leslie Dyer (2)  
Christine Hill's Chilly Hill Studio Gallery  
Martha Grout Taylor