Performers from Newburgh Performing Arts Academy dance to the music of West Side Story on Safe Harbors Green.

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... and more!
As we begin to cautiously break free from the clutches of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are happily welcoming friends back to Safe Harbors, to enjoy open air performances, farmers markets and gatherings on Safe Harbors Green; limited capacity openings, exhibitions and programming in Ann Street Gallery; and streamed and small-scale live performances in the Lobby at the Ritz.

And as we build back our events calendar, we are intentionally expanding the diversity of our programs; the performing and visual artists we engage; and the community members we reach.

As an organization, we are undertaking diversity, equity and inclusion work that involves staff, board, volunteers, patrons and friends of Safe Harbors. The months’ long DEI training will further cultivate and codify an ethos of diversity, equity and inclusion in our workplace, programming and public engagement.

We are committed to growing our unique housing and downtown revitalization model in the City of Newburgh; and to that end, have responded to a City RFP (request for proposal) to purchase and develop a decades’ vacant lot to create an innovative and dynamic mixed-use housing and commercial development. It is a competitive process and we won’t know if we have been selected by the time this newsletter goes to print, but regardless of the outcome, we now have a strong, credentialed development team assembled and are well poised to pursue future opportunities

On the Historic Ritz Theater front, we are one state grant away from opening the doors of the Ritz stage for the first time in nearly 25 years! Though it will be in a limited capacity, adhering to our phased approach to redeveloping the space, the proposed work will result in a completed stage house and the capacity to host live performances and public and private events. We will know in December if we are awarded those funds, so fingers crossed!

As the Cornerstone Residence reaches its 15th birthday, Safe Harbors will be undergoing a re-capitalization and rehabilitation of the building that is so integral to the work that we do. We are looking forward to upgrading the apartments and community spaces, increasing energy efficiency and making necessary repairs on the roof, façade and mechanical systems.

So, a busy year behind and a busy year ahead, as Safe Harbors continues to strengthen its mission, grow its program and increase its impact on the community we serve.

Thank you for supporting our mission of transforming lives and building community through housing and the arts. With your help we are ever onward!

Lisa Silverstone
Executive Director

An Exploration of West Side Story

West Side Story, A Look Back – On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of this classic film, Safe Harbors produced a hybrid (live and streamed) event exploring the themes, music, legacy and relevance of West Side Story. This multi-layered program includes a discussion about Leonard Bernstein’s ingenious score with Conductor and Musical Director of the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra, Russell Ger; a panel discussion with community leaders and activists about organized group activity in our community today; originally-choreographed dance performances with performers from the Newburgh Performing Arts Academy and the Dojo Dance Company; interviews and oral histories with the film’s original cast members; and performance and conversations with musical artists Corey Glover, Tanisha Castellanos, Luisa Fuentes and Neil Alexander around the movie’s theme, its legacy and how it has endured through the decades. If you missed this fascinating and entertaining program, please stay tuned to our website for opportunities to view it online - www.safe-harbors.org.
Cornerstone Residents Celebrate Earth Day

The Cornerstone residents celebrated Earth Day by taking part in a seed-planting event - encouraging them to grow their own vegetables and herbs by planting vegetable and herb seeds.

Cornerstone Community Writing Workshop

This year, several residents embarked on a virtual creative writing journey in our Cornerstone Community Writing Workshop, led by local author and educator, David Surface. This program was made possible by Dominican Sisters of Hope.

Thanks to the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan for the generous grant which enabled us to purchase the technology to host virtual programs like this and enable residents to engage and connect.

GED Graduate

Congratulations to our most recent graduate, Bruno Gordon, and thank you to our partner, SUNY Orange and instructor, Marvin Schwartzwalder for your dedication to this important program. We are proud of all our graduates and welcome students from our Cornerstone residence and larger community.

Quilting Workshops

The Cornerstone Quilting Workshops continue to thrive with talent and community-building. Recently the quilters worked together to create a special Harriet Tubman quilt which was displayed on the performance stage of the Black Renaissance Festival and is now permanently installed in the Cornerstone Library. The Cornerstone Quilting Group plans to meet up soon and welcome new members.

Emergency Closet

The Cornerstone Residence received funding from the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan to stock emergency supplies including flashlights, batteries, water, sanitizer and sanitizing wipes.
2021 Exhibitions

Kicking off the 2021 season, Answer Tell Pray Answer Look Tell Answer Answer Tell, curated by Kiyoto Koseki, a New York based artist and curator, explored the use of franchising techniques as a generative method for artistic production.

The summer months welcomed a collaboration with Orange County Arts Council, with the exhibition of their first juried exhibition, Hudson Valley Imprints, featuring a wide variety of work by ten Hudson Valley artists.

Newburgh Lens: Brian Wolfe, featured the photography of Safe Harbors 2021 Cornerstone of the Community gala honoree, Brian Wolfe. The exhibition, curated by Ann Street Gallery Director, Diana Mangaser, was a celebration of Newburgh’s people, places and things.

In conjunction with Newburgh Open Studio Tours, Ann Street Gallery hosted the second annual Black Renaissance Festival, a celebration and amplification of Black artists in our community. The exhibition and accompanying performances on Safe Harbors Green, featured over 24 exceptional visual artists, spoken word artists and singers.

1x1x1

The Gallery has launched a new exhibition series, 1X1X1, which features one artist, displaying one piece for one month in the Gallery’s public facing window. The 1X1X1 series facilitates easy and organic engagement with the arts and aims to be a nimble platform, providing artists experimental space for solo exhibitions.

The inaugural 1X1X1, Summer Goth, by Mollie McKinley, included a performance piece that used the symbolic and textural language of veils to embody the ethereal intersections of land, spirit and body.

The series continues in November, with an installation by Newburgh artist Vernon Byron. We’ll finish up the 2021 series in December with an installation and workshop by Daniel Giordano and will kick off the 2022 season with work from artist and arts educator, Hanny Ahern.

Emerging Artist Fellowship

Thanks to funding from Dominican Sister’s of Hope, we are excited to announce Ann Street Gallery’s inaugural Emerging Artist Fellowship in support of local emerging artists, with a focus on artists identifying as Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color (BIPOC). The Fellowship will be a year-long engagement with the artists, providing opportunities for mentorship, professional development, provision of materials & supplies, and representation in the Gallery during Safe Harbor’s Black Renaissance Festival (an event which highlights and celebrates BIPOC artists in our community) and Newburgh Open Studios. Stay tuned for details in 2022.
Black Renaissance Exhibition and Celebration

Safe Harbors of the Hudson presented its second annual Black Renaissance Festival in September. The Festival, a celebration and amplification of Black voices in our community, was conceived by and organized with Black community leaders, artists and activists. The event included an exhibition of the works of local visual artists in Ann Street Gallery; a performance showcase, featuring spoken word artists and singers, on Safe Harbors Green stage; and Black-owned artisanal vendors and food trucks.

Community Paint-In

It was such a pleasure to resume our Community Paint-in, which, like virtually everything, was on hiatus in 2020. This year’s event was hosted outside on Ann Street allowing the community to enjoy and engage through paint and canvas. Friends and neighbors also collaborated on Augmented Reality.exe, a participatory mural project led by local artist and Safe Harbors Board Member, Vernon Byron. The mural, which will be displayed on the large steel storage container adjacent to the Ann Street municipal parking lot, invites the community to take ownership and authorship of their public spaces.

Newburgh Literary Festival - Chapter 2021

Book enthusiasts were excited to attend our second Newburgh Literary Festival this fall. The two-day event was held in collaboration with board member, Dr. Hannah Brooks, event curators Ruth Danon and Belinda McKeon, and the Newburgh Free Library, with special guest, WAMC Radio’s host of The Roundtable and The Book Show, Joe Donahue. Festival-goers enjoyed a full day of readings, interviews and conversations with eight acclaimed writers, a cocktail reception meet and greet and local writer’s fair and on Sunday, a series of in-person writing workshops with award-winning, Hudson Valley-based authors and artists.

Humanitee Tales

We were proud to present an all new production of Humanitee Tales - Ordinary People with Extraordinary Life Stories. This emotively creative show, conceived and directed by Karen E. Gersch, explored what connects us despite our differences.

Black Wall Street

Safe Harbors Board member and historical scholar, Reverend Earl Miller, presented on the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa Massacre, also known as the “Black Wall Street Massacre.” It was a story of both an American and family history as Rev. Miller’s grandfather pastored a Greenwood congregation during the post-massacre rebuilding of the remarkable Tulsa community. Rev. Miller examined the historical context of this atrocity while paying respect to the lives, businesses and homes destroyed.
Ritz Kidz Circus Shines

This summer, Safe Harbors hosted its 5th annual Ritz Kidz Circus program for 24 young people from Newburgh and the surrounding area. During this two-week, intensive program, our young circus students worked with a world-class team of circus performers and coaches to learn leadership, self-reliance, team work, trust and confidence, while honing their juggling, tumbling, clowning and flying trapeze skills! A public performance, showcasing these fearless performers, was enjoyed by a huge crowd of friends, neighbors and families on Safe Harbors Green.

With the generous support of the National Endowment for the Arts, Ralph E. Ogden Foundation, The Wesley-Krueger Family Foundation, the Orange County Youth Bureau, the Flying Royals, Sportsplex New Windsor and community supporters, the circus arts program will continue throughout the year, working to develop students into peer leaders for next summer’s session.

Neil Alexander X Ensemble

Safe Harbors Green was the venue for a magical evening of music by Neil Alexander and X Ensemble. The concert, which featured recently premiered Convergence: Series A, by composer and pianist, Mr. Alexander, included a range of original and classical compositions by the X Ensemble.

Flamenco Festival

The Hudson Valley Flamenco Festival, in collaboration with the Vanaver Caravan, hosted a summer series of outdoor Flamenco events in a variety of beautiful venues in the Hudson Valley. We were thrilled to welcome the group to Safe Harbors Green for a free performance that transported audience members to the sunbaked plazas of southern Spain.
Annual Gala Celebration

Nature had different plans for this year’s gala, which was scheduled to be held on our beautiful Safe Harbors Green. But neither the threat of rain nor the menacing Delta variant could keep Safe Harbors from throwing one heck of a party in Ann Street Gallery, the artist studios and spilling onto the sidewalk.

With a limited crowd, and COVID protocol in place, we celebrated Newburgh photographer, Brian Wolfe and Affinity Health Plan, our 2021 Cornerstones of the Community, with enthusiasm and style!

This year’s honorees typify the spirit of the Cornerstone award, sharing time, talent, resources and passion to make Newburgh a stronger and healthier place for everyone. Brian Wolfe, this year’s Community Champion, was recognized for his contribution to our community through his extraordinary photographs, which so beautifully and poignantly capture Newburgh’s people, places and events.

Affinity Health Care, this year’s Corporate Good Neighbor, was recognized for their generous and ever-growing support of Safe Harbors cultural programming and events. Gala-goers enjoyed live music, food, drinks, a silent auction and the photography of Mr. Wolfe, which was on exhibition in the Gallery.

On Your Marks, Get Set, Go - Virtual 5K!

This year, we hosted our annual 5K in a whole, new virtual format, enabling runners, walkers, strollers and hikers to participate from virtually anywhere! We were proud to welcome supporters from Colorado to Costa Rica, who logged on to an app and were encouraged along the way with messages from our friends and sponsors. Thank you to our intrepid 5K participants for logging on and lacing up for this annual fundraising event!
Volunteer Appreciation
This year we were proud and honored to recognize Joyce Hill as Safe Harbors Volunteer of the Year. Ms. Hill, a Cornerstone Resident, is a fiber arts artist, a tailor, an entrepreneur, a teacher, a neighbor, and a community volunteer. Her beautiful work hangs on the walls of the Cornerstone, and her helpful and generous spirit spills into the community. Joyce is a member of Safe Harbors entrepreneurial club, the Cornerstone Collective, where she provides advice to fellow artists looking to sell their wares at local craft shows and markets. Joyce volunteers in Ann Street Gallery, helps Safe Harbors of the Hudson with mailings and administrative work, teaches quilting classes in the building, and is always happy to hem a dress, mend a pair of pants or stitch a solution! Thank you, Joyce, for all you do!

Thank you, also, to ValuOffice Products Co., our In-Kind Donor of the Year. ValuOffice has been Safe Harbors office supply vendor for over 15 years and has been a loyal and generous sponsor of our annual events and programs. This year, ValuOffice, unsolicited, donated an abundance of sanitizing products to help Safe Harbors combat COVID-19 in our Cornerstone Residence. Thank you, Valucharge of the Hudson Valley & ValuOffice Products Co., for this generous donation and your continued support through the years.
Wellness Shines on the Green
A comprehensive wellness event was held on Safe Harbors Green in June. Conceived and executed by Angela Paul-Gaito of APG Pilates, this event provided a full schedule of fitness classes throughout the day and connected our community with health professionals, vendors and multiple health resources.

Newburgh Farmers Market
We were happy to host the Newburgh Farmers Market on Safe Harbors Green again this year. The market was open Saturdays from June - November and provided our community with an array of seasonal fruits, vegetables, herbs, jellies, jams, syrups, chicken, eggs, breads, sauces and more. This year there will be a winter market on Saturdays (December 4 - April 30) from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Lobby at the Ritz.

Additions to the Green
This year we added a shade sail in the center of Safe Harbors Green as well as bluestone at the foot of our park benches. Thank you to Rhinebeck Bank and Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union for their support in beautifying our park.

Salsa Under the Stars
Salsa Under the Stars made a much-anticipated return to Safe Harbors Green this summer, with dance and live performances by Tanisha Castellanos and Mercedez Pollett. Watch for our next Salsa Under the Stars in June and August 2022!

Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrated on the Green
The community gathered on Safe Harbors Green for a festive afternoon of music, dance, food and culture in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

visit our website at www.safe-harbors.org
Thank you to our community partners and sponsors for their continued support.
Your generosity makes a real and lasting impact on our community!

Your donation to Safe Harbors transforms lives!
Show your support for Safe Harbors of the Hudson and help us continue to fulfill our mission:
Transforming Lives and Building Community through Housing and the Arts.
Make a donation and make a difference today!

Visit our website www.safe-harbors.org for simple online giving.
Thank you to the following generous sponsors, foundations and individuals for their continued support!

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Your donation or ongoing pledge will help Safe Harbors continue its important mission.

To make a donation, visit our website - www.safe-harbors.org or contact Jeanne Traugot at (845) 784-1107.

Charitable Bequests
Consider leaving a legacy to help sustain Safe Harbors. Call Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan at (845) 769-9393 or e-mail admin@cfoc-ny.org.

Join our Mailing List
To receive e-updates on news and events for Safe Harbors of the Hudson visit our website, call (845) 784-1109, or send an e-mail request to gbabbage@safe-harbors.org.

Become a Volunteer!
Safe Harbors has a variety of volunteer opportunities. We are seeking dependable, enthusiastic people interested in: marketing, development, special events, performing and visual arts, GED tutoring and computer class instruction. For more information call (845) 784-1107 or e-mail jtraugot@safe-harbors.org.

Remembering Jim Hoekema
Safe Harbors of the Hudson fondly remembers our friend, Jim Hoekema. His death this year was a profound loss for his friends, family and community, and we mourn his passing while celebrating his life. Jim was an early supporter of Safe Harbors and served on our board of directors for several years. In a statement made when he first joined the Board, Jim remarked, “Safe Harbors’ efforts in social transformation and architectural restoration attracted me from the outset. What I find so great about being a board member is that our mission addresses the whole person with a great sense of dignity.”

Jim’s support and enthusiasm for Safe Harbors and his adopted home of Newburgh, lives on in a most generous bequest to the organization. Jim’s support will allow us to replace the sidewalk along the Ann Street border of Safe Harbors Green, continuing the beautiful new sidewalks recently completed by the City and putting the finishing touch on the beautiful park Jim enjoyed so much.

Transform Lives and Build Community!

Black History Month - Crafts, TikToks and more!
We were not able to hold our regular Black History Month celebration, so we provided craft kits and requested TikTok videos to Motown music to help our community stay connected and part of the celebration. It was a fun and creative way for all ages to participate.

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