



Dear {Contact\_First\_Name}

We miss you!

Our Board and Staff have been very involved in tracking the pandemic and deciding on the appropriate actions. It is a fast-changing environment! We will continue to work closely on this, developing programs to stay in touch and bring the community in to experience all the warmth that art creates.

Like many organizations, there has been a financial impact. We have cancelled Spring I and II which represents 40% of our class revenue. We are working hard to get summer camp ready and enrollment up as we will be very dependent on that revenue. It is scheduled to open June 22; the date has not been moved forward to provide more weeks as the real re-start of activities in Pennsylvania is unknown. If feasible we will accommodate that.

We are asking the Township to waive the rent for the next few months. We have been both a good tenant and a benefit to the community, so are hopeful. We are presenting this proposal to the Board of Supervisors at their meeting tonight – April 15.

Our staff is working hard – applying for grants, creating online classes, creating graphics for new ideas and changing events, growing the website, documenting decisions, creating safety and operations policies and procedures, researching and promulgating necessary information for decisions, and keeping the behind the scenes organization still functioning.

Here are some ideas we are working on: inviting plein air artists to paint on the farm and then allowing AOY to make and sell prints of their art. This is on hold until the social distancing restrictions are lifted. In addition, one of our members has created a raffle to help a gallery stay funded and can help us create the same thing.

If you have ideas, initiatives, or just want to share some thoughts, feel free to contact any or all of us at the following emails:

Alison Smith [president@theaoyartcenter.org](mailto:president@theaoyartcenter.org)

Bette Sovinee [coordinator@theaoyartcenter.org](mailto:coordinator@theaoyartcenter.org)

Jim Bongartz [education@theaoyartcenter.org](mailto:education@theaoyartcenter.org)

Kris McMahon Roba [camp@theaoyartcenter.org](mailto:camp@theaoyartcenter.org)

(please note new email addresses are now @THEaoyartcenter.org)

Thank you for your membership. You are our base for celebrating the beauty of art, the fun of creation, and the incredible talent in our community. Now we will share the healing qualities of the arts with each other and our neighbors. One thing is for sure.... the arts, in all its forms – visual or performing – have always helped to define our communities and it will be the arts, including AOY and you, the artists, that will help heal our community after this is done. While each of our respective challenges might be different. we are in this together through

## Presenting the First Online AOY Course

### *The Basics of Digital Photography*

Photographer Kristen Russo

Conducted via Zoom in May

Now open for [registration](#)



### **AOY is Going Virtual**

Seems like Zoom video conferencing is the way to continue operating while still adhering to social distancing requirements. AOY is using this tool to great effect and invites you to join in the conversations as well.

Next Check In: This Friday April 17 at 10 am Click [the link](#) to join in.

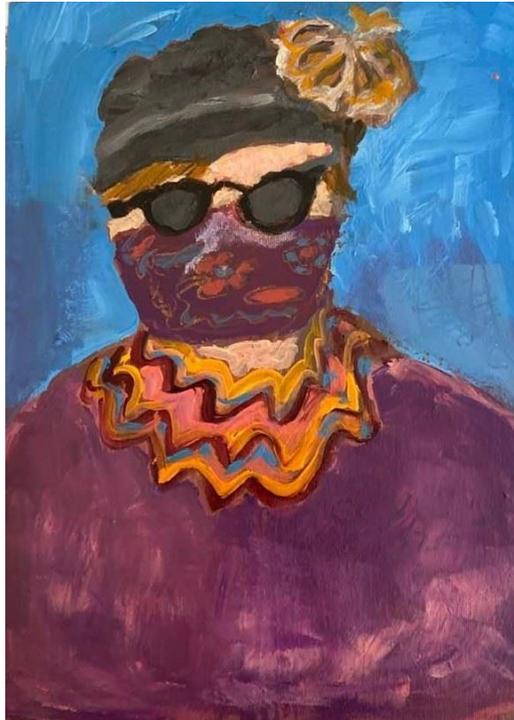
## Art of Our Times

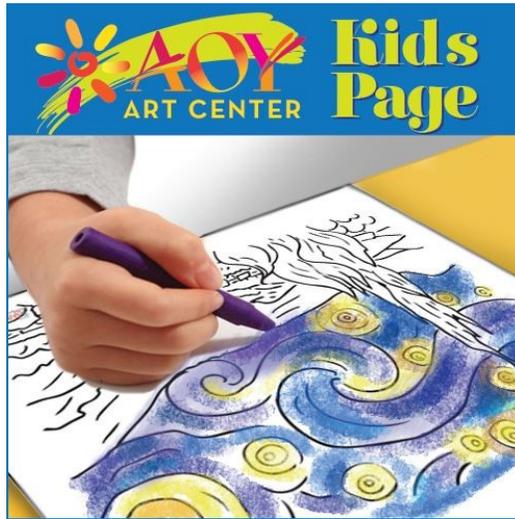
We will be opening a [Gallery page](#) on our website and through Facebook creating a new page for [Art of Our Times](#) – looking for artistic interpretations of what our lives are like now, from walks to worries. These are now ready for your artworks. If you don't have Facebook, please [email Bette](#) with a jpeg to post.

## Art Resources

We heard from many of you that you do not have Facebook but were interested in the art videos and other links that have been posted. We compiled these links for your reference in a [separate Google document](#). If you have additional local resources to share, please let us know.

Janis Schimsky Self Portrait >>>>





## Kids Pages

You can soon find a Kids Page on our website with fun and simple art projects to do at home. Kris McMahon Roba, our Summer Camp Director, is sharing activities. We are also hoping Kids will participate in the Art of Our Times as well.

Not just for Kids of course. What would you draw in the Life in a Bottle activity?

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This message was sent to you as a Member of AOY Art Center

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

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