

Entertainment

## What to do when you can't do what you usually do

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Putting out this week's GO! has been a real challenge.

With virtually every concert, show, event, even religious programming cancelled... well, what can we offer you?

You'd be surprised!

Getting through these times will take a lot of creative thinking and we aim to help you stay engaged, connected, active and as busy as you want to be.

### What to do

If you're anything like me, and by that I mean you have a watermelon-sized basket of unmatched socks in your laundry room waiting for some attention, you're likely to have a lot of chores, tasks, projects and even some fun ideas you want to pursue but haven't had time to.

May I say: Now is the time.

But that's not all you can do to keep going.

We checked in with friends, neighbors, relatives and colleagues - not in person, mind you, but via email and phone. Here are some of the recommendations we received.

Port Jervis' own Foundry 42+ has found a way to keep the sense of community going strong, even as we must be separated.

As Foundry 42+'s Cooper Boone writes, that "is why we've decided to take our events online through social media. Every day at 10:30, look for us on Facebook or Instagram. We'll be doing Craft/Story Times with Miss Mandy and Miss Cherish, Foraging Crafts with Cooper, Pop Up

Cooking Class with Cooper and more.”

## **Get creative**

Author and illustrator Mo Willems is offering a daily online program for the next few weeks - Lunch Doodles - that encourages viewers to follow along, notebook and markers in hand. It's virtual visit to his studio, and a lesson where you can draw, doodle and explore new ways of writing. They've posted each weekday at 1 p.m. and remain online for streaming. The easiest way to find this is to Google: Lunch Doodles with Mo Willems.

NaNoWriMo – yep. it's a mouthful but while November is officially designated as National Novel Writing Month, you can take advantage of your newfound spare time and bone up on your creative skills.

Look it up at #NaNoWriMo. Let us know how you did.

Need a hit of culture? Visit [artsandculture.google.com](http://artsandculture.google.com) for a host of visual virtual tours of museums and artists' work worldwide.

## **Show your stuff**

Now that you've gotten a little more creative at home, consider sharing your artistic vision with others. Orange County Arts Council's Instagram art exhibit shows off great Instagram photos recently taken of sites and scenes in Orange County.

To submit, post any photo taken in Orange County on Instagram and use the hashtag #OCNYArtSeen. This is the second annual Orange County Arts Council Instagram Exhibit, and it will showcase recently created artwork or photos posted together online. Arts Council directors say: “We encourage you to think outside the box and capture something special!”

More at:

<http://ocartscouncil.org/.../call-for-submission-ocnyartseen.../>

## **Join a virtual group**

Keep in touch. Call, email and start up community groups with your friends and colleagues just to say hi. Be sure to touch base with folks and share your ideas, recipes, tidbits. We're fortunate in the digital age to have these resources so let's put them to good use.

But, for your own sanity, avoid those groups dedicated to complaining.

We at the Times Herald-Record shared photos of our at home workspaces the other morning, and it really gave us all a lift. Though our team has been forced to work apart from one another, this helped reinforce that suddenly absent sense of community.

Check out what we posted on Facebook and share a photo of your own home workspace.

Go to [recordonline.com](http://recordonline.com) or [facebook.com/recordonline](https://facebook.com/recordonline).

### **Keep fit, keep moving**

Some area dance, yoga and exercise studios have begun posting virtual classes for the clients to stream and participate in along with an instructor. Some are offered free; others are pay as you go.

DiVa Dance Studio in Goshen is offering free dance classes you can "attend" while social distancing.

Diane Nikeshin and her husband Vasily, studio owners, are offering one class every evening at 7:30 for the next two weeks for anyone to follow along with at home. "We're offering a variety of different things: ballroom, Latin, salsa, belly dance, hip hop, line dancing. That's what we offer at the studio."

As dancers themselves, Diane Nikeshin said, they are hankering after the activity they're accustomed to. They hope this helps others "just to keep people moving," she said. "It's just a way for a half an hour to get out minds off of things."

To access the classes go to their Facebook Page: DiVa Dance Studio and scroll down to the message, search for online dance parties on their page or call the studio at 545-0543.

### **Missing the music?**

Opportunities to hear live music performances is one of the region's greatest treasures. Even though venues are closed down, there's still a way to hear fresh, live music.

Check Facebook for performers who are livestreaming private concerts.

Here's one:

Music for humanity, a nonprofit that raises funds for music education, offers its show via Facebook live at 8 p.m. March 21, hosted by musicians Larry Amato and Barry Adelman. It is a benefit show, so viewers are asked to donate to the organization. Info at [musicforhumanity.org/musicians/index.php?t=mfh\\_donate](https://musicforhumanity.org/musicians/index.php?t=mfh_donate)

## **The great outdoors**

It's still great. On Saturday, with clear skies and warmer temps, we went for a hike on one of the lesser-traveled spots in the area. We saw plenty of folks out on segments of the Appalachian Trail .. always popular for day-hikers. But there are many other places to go for a hike or a stirring walk. Check out our list of parks below.

You can go to the park, in most cases, but not play on the playground equipment. It may be jarring to see the fencing prohibiting access to the jungle gym and all that fancy - not to mention fun - new equipment that's been springing up lately in our local parks. But when you think about it, there's an undeniable logic to this.

Here's the word from the folks at New York State Parks:

New York state parks are open

*All year-round state parks, trails and grounds of historic sites are currently open for outdoor recreation and enjoyment. Gov. Cuomo has waived all entrance fees during the current COVID-19 public health crisis.*

*To encourage social distancing during this crisis, all public programs and events are suspended indefinitely. Many large indoor visitor facilities, such as nature centers, visitor centers and historic houses, will be closed to the public indefinitely.*

*State Parks will provide updates periodically on social media, and at [parks.ny.gov](https://parks.ny.gov). We will also be available to respond to questions or concerns regarding visitation opportunities at [notes@parks.ny.gov](mailto:notes@parks.ny.gov)*

*Visitors should remember they are in a public park. While we are making increased efforts toward sanitation, each surface is only as clean as the last person who touched it. Therefore, you should take steps to protect your health by following the CDC/NYSDOH's for preventing the spread of colds, flu, and COVID-19:*

– *Try to keep at least 6 feet of distance between you and others.*

- *Avoid close contact, such as shaking hands, hugging, and kissing.*
- *Wash hands often or use a hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.*
- *Avoid surfaces that are touched often, such as doorknobs, handrails, and playground equipment*

*Source: [parks.ny.gov](https://parks.ny.gov)*