A Message to our Artist Members

Dear Friends,

We in the Southern Tier are facing a very dangerous time. Yesterday, the Steuben County Manager wrote an open letter to the community, which you can read [here](#). The COVID cases in the county are escalating and we are averaging over 30 new cases a day. Steuben County has surpassed 100 COVID-related deaths. When combined with the ongoing surge in Chemung County, it is clear that now is a time for action. In order to protect yourselves, your loved ones and our small business economy, I urge you to take all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of this disease. We all know what they are: wear a mask in public, wash your hands, maintain physical distance from people outside of your household, and limit the number of people with whom you interact.

Maintaining the discipline to follow these guidelines is hard. It is easy to let down our guard or even give up altogether. Now is the time for renewed vigilance. The vaccine is coming! There is a light at the end of the tunnel. We will make it through this time. Let’s do it by working together, caring for each other and remembering what we really value – our friends and neighbors.

When the vaccine is distributed and life begins to open up, our community will need our creativity to recover. The fundamental necessity of the arts is clearer during this pandemic than at any other time in my lifetime.

Thank you all for the gifts you give to the community.

With deep respect and affection,

Connie Sullivan-Blum

*Executive Director*