



NEW MARLBOROUGH
CULTURAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 206
Mill River, Massachusetts 01244

May 1, 2020

Greetings from the New Marlborough Cultural Council. We hope that you and your loved ones are well during this difficult time. We know we live in a special community that has generously supported our programs through the years and we greatly appreciate that support.

The New Marlborough Cultural Council works to enrich the lives of our residents and build community through our support of the arts and education. We had many plans for 2020. Through our annual grant program, we awarded over \$16,000 in grants to arts and education programs. Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of these programs will be delayed; some will be cancelled. We cancelled the Town Potluck and the bi-annual garden tour. We hope to host Burritt Day in mid-August. Other programs will need to be postponed to the Fall.

Each spring the Cultural Council conducts a fundraising campaign, asking for your support of our grants and programming. We are always humbled by your generous support. However, we realize that this year is very different. We are all concerned about our physical, financial and emotional health. It's an anxious time. We are all trying to do what is necessary to get through this crisis so that we can return to normal life. For most of us, that is taking all the energy and determination we have.

For that reason, the New Marlborough Cultural Council has voted to forego our annual Spring fundraising drive. Instead, we ask that you support those organizations in our greater community that are working hard to support those most affected during this crisis: emergency service workers, hospitals and social service providers, the homeless, the food insecure, to name just a few. There are many Berkshire organizations working on the frontlines and ask that you contribute to the best of your abilities.

We hope that the Fall will bring a return to normal. We look forward to hosting community gatherings and to awarding grants that will bring arts and educational programs to New Marlborough. We plan to conduct a fundraising drive then and look forward to your generous support.

Stay healthy and stay safe! We will keep you informed of our plans and projects as events unfold.

Sincerely,

The New Marlborough Cultural Council

Nancy Barbe, Chair, Eugene Cleary, Sue Cohen, Alice Fahs, Linda Fass, Joyce Hackett, Richard Long, Wendy Miller, Kathy Potoski, Marjorie Robins, Margie Sharpiro, Holly Valente, Louise Yohalem