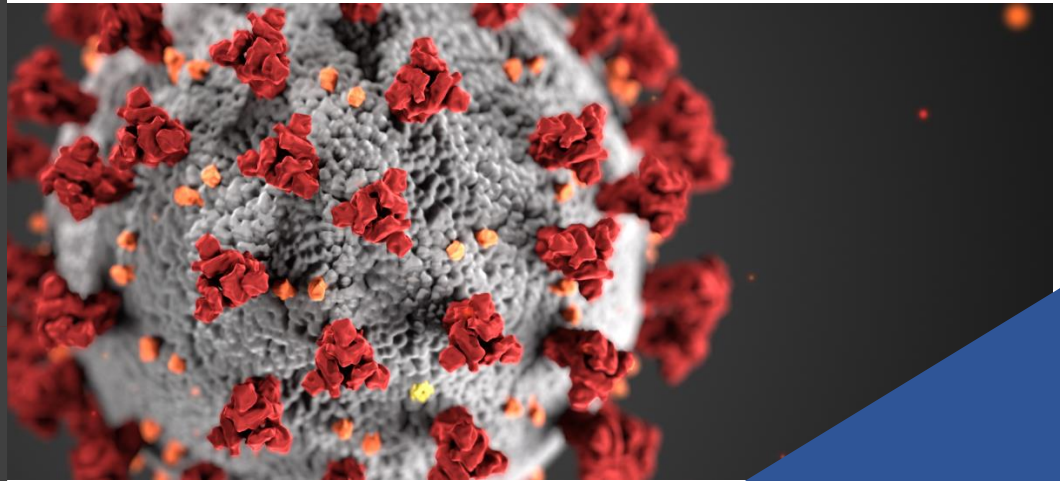


## CREATIVITY

IN THE  
TIME  
OF  
COVID-19

## WELCOME

CHOIR is launching a collective effort for expressing and documenting our extraordinary, lived experiences during this unique time of a coronavirus.

**The goals of *Creativity in the Time of COVID-19* are to:**

- Create community
- Recognize the unique experiences, needs, concerns and coping strategies of CHOIR members
- Create a mechanism to creatively share those experiences

Send your submissions to:

[Rani.Elwy@va.gov](mailto:Rani.Elwy@va.gov)

**#COVIDCREATIVITY  
@VA\_CHOIR  
ON TWITTER**

**Editorial Team:** Rani Elwy,  
Gemmae Fix, Keith McInnes  
**Designer:** Elizabeth Maguire

## WITH JOY

One of the biggest challenges in this age of COVID is to keep connections to our communities and to keep our routines going. For me, this includes my weekly modern dance class that I share with an incredible group of women in Lexington. These dancers, from amateurs like me to professional performers, gather each week at the Unitarian church and share 1 ½ hours of dance, music and creativity led by an amazing modern dance teacher. This practice for me is the one time in the week when I truly let go of work and family and experience the joy of movement. Needless to say, this class is suspended for the foreseeable future. So I proposed to the class that at 6 PM on Tuesdays, we all still put on our dance clothes and go through our warm-ups and then dance with joy! As a result, I got the list of music from our dance teacher, and through the magic of Spotify was able to create a playlist for the class and share it with everyone. Tuesday at 6, I plan to turn it on, tune out all the news and anxiety, and dance with joy.

**BARBARA BOKHOUR**

Maybe you won't be productive as [Isaac Newton](#) was during the plague year when he was a student at Oxford. You may be more likely to consume than produce. Thus, we've cultivated a list of COVID-19 entertainment.

**Books**

[Love in the Time of Cholera](#)

[Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales](#) (for kids)

[Fever 1793](#) (for young adults)

**PodCast**

[How Boston Reacted To The 1918 Flu Pandemic](#)

**Academic Reading**

[Sociology of Health & Illness Special Issue: Pandemics and Emerging Infectious Diseases: the Sociological Agenda](#)

**Somatosphere.** [A collaborative website covering the intersections of medical anthropology, science and technology studies, cultural psychiatry, psychology and bioethics.](#)  
[COVID-19 Forum: Introduction](#)

**Movies**

[Boston Globe's Mini Movie Festivals](#)

**Miscellaneous**

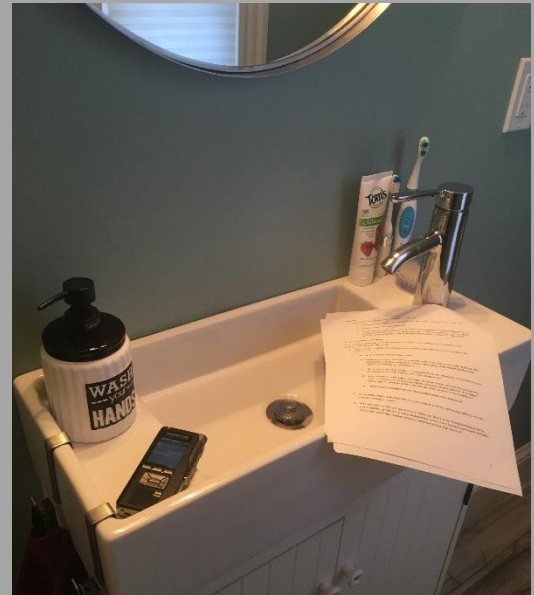
[Other historic events that led to large social disruptions](#)

**RON SPIRO  
GEMMAE FIX**

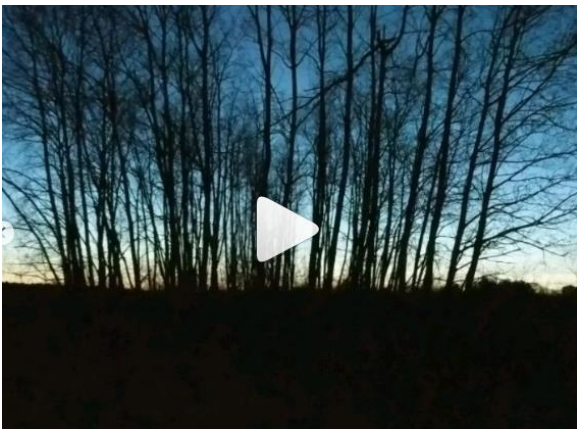
## A LITTLE ECHOEY

I had to conduct an unexpected interview on Friday. As my family members came home one by one in the middle of it I backed up further and further into the house until I ended up conducting it from the bathroom. So I enter this as my “Creative place to conduct interviews in the Time of COVID-19”. A little echoey, but does the trick!

EILEEN M. DRYDEN



**#COVIDCREATIVITY**



## March 9, 2020

The automated call came at 10 pm  
Arlington Public Schools are closed  
A parent works at Biogen; the child is symptomatic

The text from another Mom immediately followed. Could we run? Should we run?

We kept our usual routine; 6 a.m. at The Res  
We maintained 3-6' between us

Our conversation oscillated; mundane, pandemic, mundane, pandemic

Saturday, she took her kids to a Birthday party; Sunday, I took my kids to the Ice Rink

What child was it? What parent was it? Is my kid in that class?  
Is my kid friends with that kid?

“Peent” “Peent” “Peent” emanated from the predawn meadow;  
Woodcocks were putting on a show

We left the boardwalk and descended into the marsh  
Melodic chirps encircled us

We lost the trail and became entrapped in briers  
We giggled

The sun rose; I had to get to grant review.

**GEMMAE FIX**