

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, many events of our Chamber members as well as the Chamber have been postponed to future dates. Please check the Chamber Website for details and frequent updates: www.jeffcountychamber.org/events



June 2021

Business Insider

Serving the Businesses and Citizens of Jefferson County

Article courtesy of Jake Beattie, NWMC

Northwest Maritime Center

“Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead.”

If you are reading this, it's 2021- we made it out of 2020!

Like for everyone, the Maritime Center's 2020 was a wrecking ball. Everything was cancelled: school programs, classes, races, the Wooden Boat Festival- pretty much everything we had spent the last decades developing was in person, in groups, in public spaces, and sometimes crossing borders; none of it could happen. So, we had a choice: pack it up and wait for 1-2 years or figure out new ways to be useful. We chose Option B, and as a result we spent the year catching up to our ideas:

- Online builds: We built boats with families across the country with online boat building and shifted our adult education classes to all virtual. We actually increased enrollment with students throughout the country.
- Virtual festival: We created a virtual wooden boat festival- which was essentially a 9 hour long live TV show that included live interviews from three continents and original documentaries about Port Townsend's Marine trades.
- School innovations: We pivoted our school program staff from delivering programs to grant funded work to plan for new ones; both here and elsewhere. Here we are with working to add a second year of curriculum to the Port Townsend Maritime Academy (half day, year-round high school program as part of the public schools), and beyond Jefferson County we are working with the South Whidbey Schools to increase project and place-based

learning in their classrooms, and farther afield we are working to help create our region's first standalone maritime high school that will open in Seattle next fall. Exciting stuff!

- Ongoing classes: We figured out how to keep our year-round programming going for our schools. Outside, on the water (yes, even in the storms. It builds character!) and socially distanced.
- Planning for the future: We did all of that and we planned for how we could evolve to best serve our community as we all emerge from the pandemic.

So, what does 2021 hold? A few things, and a few surprises still to come. We're planning on a Wooden Boat Festival come September. We are still working out what that can look like given likely trajectory of vaccinations, but we are anticipating at least the outdoor portions of the event will be able to happen. While we made an early call to cancel the Race to Alaska (its June start was just too early to be confident that it could happen responsibly for the



rural and remote communities along the route) we launched in its place a new adventure race: the WA360. Much like the Race to Alaska it will be engineless and unsupported, but over a 360-mile course throughout Washington's inside waters that starts and ends in Port Townsend. Race start is June 6th, but due to COVID there won't be any parties.

We're also working on some changes to the Maritime Center campus that will make it a little more welcoming and engaging: better signs, more activities for the passerby, and a new small passenger ferry that was donated to us that we hope to have in service by the summer so we can help get people out experiencing our town from the water. So there continue to be new things coming online while we are ramping back up. No barnacles growing on us! <https://nwmaritime.org/>



431 Water St.
Port Townsend, WA 98368
360-385-3628
<https://nwmaritime.org/>



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It only happens once a year and it's very exciting! The Jefferson County Community Leadership Awards was back in May this year and even more exciting than last year. This event was our second on Zoom and we hope our last, COVID willing! Our Keynote speaker was so inspiring and also highly entertaining and included a very serious message about Leadership in a pandemic. Congressman Derek Kilmer, always entertaining, even in the most serious of challenges and known by our communities for his ability to listen and then act. Those who replied to our survey relative to who should speak at this event selected him above all others for the care he and his team take with all in the community, assisting them not only with business issues but personal inter-governmental challenges like Medicare and social security. The comments received post-event exceeded their expectations. Congressman Kilmer is not only a great speaker but a motivator as well. I am certain several of the projects



Arlene Alen

he discussed now have some new resources from our attendees.

Our new format, heavily video based, seemed to be quite well received along with our local Musicians, world class all and whose playlist now reside along with the videos for each category and the Leadership speeches from the President, Director and Congressman on the Chamber YouTube Channel.

We thank our sponsors for this event who made it possible not only to produce this for the community but to enhance our Community Development Fund. Coldwell Banker Best Homes, Mr. Richard Tucker, Autoworks, Sound Community Bank, and the Port of Port Townsend along with New American Funding and 1st Security Bank plus Chimacum Corner Farm Stand, The Business Guides, Faber Feinson PLLC, Jefferson Land trust, Peninsula Legal Secretarial Services, The Port Townsend Pizza Factory and Nadine's Kitchen. A special Thank You to our Community Partner, the Port Townsend Leader for their support of this event.

The level of nominees continues to exceed itself annually and this year was no exception. With the theme of "Pandemic Leadership" there were some new faces on the list, people who had been

working invisibly in the community and during this difficult time stepped up to embrace the challenge and created solutions to new challenges that will live to support our community long after COVID is controlled.

The selection committees had a very difficult time choosing the awardees in every category. In truth all of them deserved a trophy however none of them work for this kind of reward. All graciously thanked the teams they lead for their amazing contributions to the programs, services and products produced during this pandemic year and their ability to pivot endlessly with the ebb and flow of this COVID tide.

Congratulations to the Awardees: Young Professional of the Year, Taylor Webster (Cascade Community Connections), Future Business Leader of the Year, Nathaniel Ashford (homeschool), Rising Entrepreneur, David Griswold, (Shipwrights Co-op), Carol Hasse, Citizen of the Year and Ben Bauermeister, Skillmation, Business Leader of the Year.

It is an honor for the Chamber to produce this annual event and we look forward to migrating back to an in person ceremony in 2022.

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The content of this publication is prepared by the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce. We welcome submissions from Chamber members. Send articles and photos to director@jeffcountychamber.org.

Thank You to our Sponsors



Jefferson County Community Leadership Awards



NEW MEMBER

Port Townsend Picnic Company

Picnics to make memories "that last a lifetime."

Article courtesy of the Chamber of Jefferson County

Photos courtesy of Port Townsend Picnic Company

Picnics are a wonderful way to celebrate life in our beautiful outdoors. For some however, preparing for a picnic can be daunting, especially if you want it to be, "perfect". Enter



Alexis Arrabito who has recently made it her business, literally, to stage stunning picnic settings right here in Port Townsend. After designing, curating, and executing her own travel themed wedding reception at the Cotton Building in 2019, she had the pleasure of designing and executing the Jefferson Healthcare Volunteer Appreciation event at the same venue. "It was an exciting rush each time!" she shares, "The concept of a luxury pop-up picnic and events company followed quite naturally!" Port Townsend Picnic Company was born.

This picnic experience gives people the opportunity to come together in a special setting in a very safe manner. There are several unique things about this experience. First,

as the manager of The Washington Hotel downtown, Arrabito is empathetic to how the pandemic has impacted travel and people's ability or willingness to gather. All materials are thoroughly cleaned and sanitized between each picnic, and high-quality single-use table settings can also be provided. Arrabito is most enthused about how her concept allows the client to experience a truly dreamy scenario: have a "chance" encounter with the most dazzling picnic set-up imaginable in an incredible setting, get comfortable and enjoy yourself to the fullest... and then simply walk away when finished! Alexis is dreaming up new themes and package picnics all the time.

Alexis's love for Port Townsend runs



► Continued on page 6

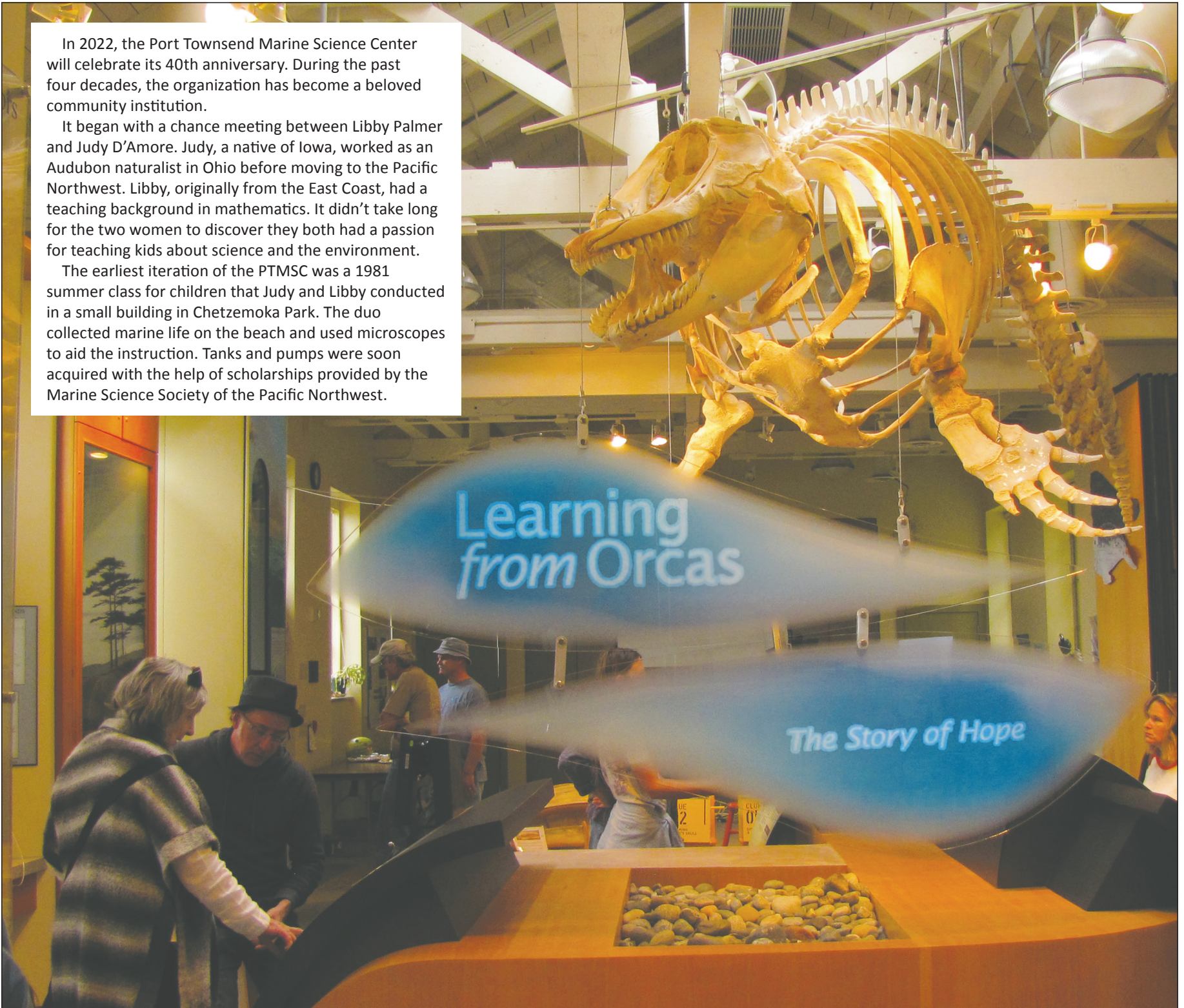
Port Townsend Marine Science Center prepares for next 40 years

*Article and photos courtesy of Port
Townsend Marine Science Center*

In 2022, the Port Townsend Marine Science Center will celebrate its 40th anniversary. During the past four decades, the organization has become a beloved community institution.

It began with a chance meeting between Libby Palmer and Judy D'Amore. Judy, a native of Iowa, worked as an Audubon naturalist in Ohio before moving to the Pacific Northwest. Libby, originally from the East Coast, had a teaching background in mathematics. It didn't take long for the two women to discover they both had a passion for teaching kids about science and the environment.

The earliest iteration of the PTMSC was a 1981 summer class for children that Judy and Libby conducted in a small building in Chetzemoka Park. The duo collected marine life on the beach and used microscopes to aid the instruction. Tanks and pumps were soon acquired with the help of scholarships provided by the Marine Science Society of the Pacific Northwest.



MEMBER UPDATE



The classes were an instant success and it wasn't long before the search for a permanent location led them to a boarded-up building on the pier at Fort Worden State Park. With guidance from board members at the Poulsbo Marine Science Center, Libby and Judy formed a non-profit so they could request access to the building from state park officials. Approval came in 1982 with one condition: The unheated building could be utilized in exchange for maintaining a marine life exhibit for park visitors during the summer.

An exhibit was quickly organized using aquariums found at yard sales, touch tanks built with partners and supplies acquired at little or no cost. The doors opened up to the public that summer.

Keeping all this activity going with volunteers alone was a challenge. With

guidance from then-Centrum Executive Director Joe Wheeler, the PTMSC lobbied state legislators for funding. The major undertaking paid off in 1989, when the legislature allocated \$30,000 to support the PTMSC for two years. Soon thereafter, Anne Murphy, the first executive director was hired.

The next big growth spurt happened in 2001 when the PTMSC opened its natural history exhibit in a renovated



building onshore, across from the pier. Since that time, hundreds of thousands of people have visited both exhibits, learning about the wonders of the Salish Sea and the importance of being good stewards of the marine environment.

The PTMSC continued to grow and in 2013 hired its second executive director, Janine Boire. In addition to Boire, nine staff provide a range of programs including community science projects, lifelong learning activities and a robust volunteer program, in addition to running the museum and aquarium.

During the 2020 pandemic lockdown, the PTMSC team tapped into their creativity to offer online and DIY content so that people of all ages could continue to remain connected and learn remotely. Events and low tide walks went virtual, and numerous online educational programs for students were created. To date, over 700 students have attended these virtual class sessions.

And now the PTMSC faces a new challenge. As early as June 2022, Washington State Parks will begin dismantling the aging pier on which the aquarium resides. As a result, the organization is seeking a new home that will allow it to grow its mission and reach more people with its much needed message of environmental stewardship.

Exciting times are ahead!



532 Harbor Defense Way
Port Townsend, WA 98368
360-385-5582
ptmsc.org



Andersen Machine Shop

Article courtesy of the Chamber of Jefferson County

Mastering a specific trade has provided a multi-generational career opportunity for the Andersens of Andersen Machine Shop Inc. Eight-year-old Ulfar Andersen learned machining on Vestmann Island in Iceland, from his master-machinist father. By 15, he worked in the family business and later earned a master's degree in Machining & Mechanics. His 2 sons have followed suit, mastering the family craft, as have 2 of his grandsons!



Photo by Ashlyn Brown

It was 1984 when Ulfar and his wife, Halla, moved to Washington state and opened their first machine shop in Mukilteo. In 1999, they settled in Port Townsend where their first relocated shop was at 2319 Washington Street where Pane D'Amore's downtown bakery is currently located. The Andersens eventually constructed their own building in Boat Haven where the business has nearly outgrown its current space.

In 2007, Andersen purchased a Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) Lathe and has since bought a CNC Mill. His son Thor, who has also earned a master's degree in Machining, was fascinated by robots as a youth. "I was not really interested in machining," he admits, "but with CNC technology, the robotic characteristics of that appealed to me." Thor started working in the family business in 2009 at the age of 23. During my visit to the shop, he casually demonstrated basic functions on the lathe and the mill with the ease of programming a microwave oven. The lathe spins the part while stationary tools shape it. In contrast, the mill holds the part still while robotic arms with tools move around the part. There are cooling

systems and debris removal conveyor belts within both self-contained machines that are programmed to create custom metal parts with extremely high precision.

Halla currently manages the business and explained how word of mouth referrals and customer loyalty have been of primary importance to their business. "Sometimes a customer moves away but they still order from us. Quality is everything," she says. Andersen Machine Shop produces parts mainly for the aerospace and refrigeration industries. There are also maritime projects when boat owners can no longer buy a needed part ready-made, custom parts, and new designs to prototype for local naval architects. In fact, the shop can create virtually any machined metal part to specification.

When asked about all of the debris created from whittling down big chunks of metal, Thor explains, "We collect certain types of metal for recycling. Other scraps are sometimes picked up by local artists and turned into incredible art." When scrap comes off the machine in particularly interesting shapes, Thor will set them aside, like a baggie of stainless-steel curls in the shape of little flowers. "You never know." The shop has sponsored Kinetic Sculpture teams and made parts for the high school robotics class as well. Thor has two children of his own now but no expectations that they will want to become machinists since he didn't think he would when he was young. Today, he and his parents run an efficient and successful shop with ideas about expanding that could include a new and larger building. Find them at 2702 Jefferson Street, Port Townsend. <http://andersenmachineshop.com/5001.html> 360-385-1031



Andersen
MACHINE SHOP, INC.

2702 Jefferson Street,
Port Townsend, WA98339
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► Continued from pg. 3

deep. "My dad, photographer James Arrabito, worked on the ferry terminal here while I was growing up. Some of my fondest memories are of being a pre-teen riding the bus downtown with a \$10 or \$20 bill in my pocket for the whole weekend. I'd ration every dollar: a slice of pizza at Waterfront, a new toy at Abracadabra, or, as I got older, trips to Fancy Feathers, Quimper Sound, and Summer House Design. I also rode the bus to Chetzemoka and Fort Worden. One of my most meaningful anchors to Port Townsend was through Centrum's high school writers conference. I love playing in all mediums." And what about her collection of eclectic table décor? "My parents introduced me to thrifting and garage sale-ing quite young. There's nothing like a Friday yard sale in this town!" she exclaims, "I am always on the hunt."

"Port Townsend is the perfect backdrop for a pop-up picnic company," Alexis elaborates, "Tourists are looking for ways to enhance their visit, and travelers and locals alike have a year's worth of celebrations to catch up on." Arrabito has

aspirations to grow PT Picnic Company into a small events and rental outfit. In the meantime, she looks forward to collaborating with other small businesses this summer including onboard boats for that extra special view of Port Townsend from the water. Through PT Picnic Co., Alexis can create the settings for these memorable experiences for groups of 2-6 several times a day.

"I keep hearing the phrase 'roaring 20s' to describe the decade ahead and I'm completely on board," says Arrabito with a smile, "I love a good party!". Visit [instagram.com/ptpicnics/](https://www.instagram.com/ptpicnics/) and [ptpicnics.com](https://www.ptpicnics.com) to view enchanting picnic themes. Contact Alexis Arrabito - hello@ptpicnics.com



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Port Townsend, WA 98368
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[ptpicnics.com](https://www.ptpicnics.com)



MEMBER UPDATE

Olympic Music Festival

Article courtesy of Emily Baker

The center of the Olympic Music Festival's chamber music operations shifted in 2020 as OMF board and staff scrambled to keep the music alive through a collection of virtual salon performances. With the help of OMF champions, board members, and Kala Point residents Scott Rovanner and Tracy Wirta—who opened their home to musicians twice since the beginning of the pandemic—OMF has been able to record and film programs in the now aptly nicknamed OMF House.

It all began last August, when the OMF House was transformed into a recording studio and home base for the first chamber trio. As a 2020 OMF summer season evaporated while the pandemic spread, Scott and Tracy handed over the keys to their new home even before they had moved in themselves. In a few short weeks, OMF Artistic Director Julio Elizalde became director, pianist, and audiovisual engineer, and the project came to life. By late summer 2020, OMF was proud to offer a brand-new Virtual Salon Concert series—presented free to the public and dedicated to health care workers everywhere. Donations helped fill the more than \$100,000 OMF budget gap due to the loss of live concerts.

This virtual season concept was so well received that the board and staff decided to create a 2021 spring season—a first for OMF—to keep the music playing in Port Townsend. Providing musicians with the opportunity to play together and earn a living is essential to survival of the arts during these unusual times.

Program planning requires OMF staff and musicians to be nimble. All the artists are well versed in protecting their health and the health of those around them.



Rehearsal © Carlin Ma



Performance © Carlin Ma

Each person is tested for coronavirus before traveling, and everyone follows all state-recommended protocols to ensure a safe environment. Showing the community that safety comes first is an important role of business leaders, keeping the health of our coworkers, neighbors, and healthcare workers in mind as we rebuild.

This summer, the Olympic Music Festival is busily planning a hybrid season with both virtual and live concerts! The support OMF received from donors and the arts-loving community, along with pandemic relief grants, kept us moving forward. There are still hurdles in staffing and funding that are a part of our recovery from 2020, and 2021 will look different than years past. However, we are very encouraged by how far we've come since last year.

Spring virtual programs are set to air Sunday May 9, 2021. A program highlight is Dvořák's Piano Trio in F minor—a treasure of the piano trio literature, with one of the most beautiful slow movements in all of chamber music. The recordings will be shared virtually in May via the Olympic Music Festival's website, www.olympicmusicfestival.org. Please stay tuned for summer happenings! emilie@olympicmusicfestival.org 360.385.9699



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Do you have a passion for our community? What is your interest? Are you a foodie? An adventure seeker? A trail hiker? A local wine connoisseur?

The Chamber of Jefferson County is looking for passionate volunteers that would be willing to spend a few minutes answering emails or brief phone conversations with visitors interested in all the exciting experiences our community has to offer. If you love your hobby and want to share it with others, please reach out to the chamber to discuss this fantastic Community Concierge opportunity. You can invest only a small amount of time to take a phone call or two or answer an email or hang out at the Chamber for a weekend hour occasionally, once the state allows for that. To volunteer or ask a question contact director@jeffcountychamber.org to learn more.

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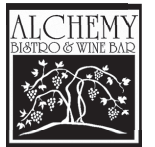
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