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from LETTER BOX
the editor

Bring It

What does one write as the year 2020 is coming to a close? At least without including an expletive? First of all, does anyone besides me say, “Why aren’t they wearing masks?” while watching a TV show? Or, “Why are all those people drinking in a crowded brewery?” Our complete frame of mind has shifted. Who knew that designer masks would be a thing? A pandemic that was initially a cause to unite and show empathy has ultimately divided us further, but we can do better. Now is the time to flip that coin. Honor the unexpected. We had our first Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra concert in a soccer stadium and amazing virtual galas that celebrated anniversaries and milestones. Resiliency is a gift and, when embraced, allows us all to evolve and become a stronger community.



PHILAN M. EBENHACK

As the holidays approach, there is no better time to go all out. Celebrate at the highest level ... bedazzle like it’s 1980 (I had a fabulous pair of bedazzled jeans). One of my son’s friends put up a Christmas tree in September, baked Christmas cookies and blasted holiday music. What an amazing spirit that children can model for us old folks. In this issue you will find beautiful gifts from artisans near and far, tickets to holiday treasures, tips on how to keep your poinsettia from wilting in the Florida sun and unique experiences like an “in-person yet socially distant pop-up Fringemas Carol” (pg. 18). We also honor the art legend Harold Garde. He shares his insights on his lifelong career as an artist (pg. 24). It’s important to see where we’ve been in order to see where we need to go.

Although this year is one for the history books, the commitment of the arts community has never wavered ... just bring it. Stay relevant and elevate the average. So, let’s say goodbye to this momentous year and hello to our best selves, because now is not the time for ordinary.

Cheers,

Cindy Bowman LaFronz
Editor, *Orlando Arts Magazine*