

In the New Year, Support the Arts and be Inspired

HELLO 2021! WE made it, folks — we survived 2020. I'm not going to say we're unscathed. As Carrie Bradshaw would say, "Lots of stuff went down in this apartment."

Thinking back to last January, we had no idea what our daily lives would look like in the coming months. All plans came to a halt — weddings, vacations, working in an office. Virtually everything we had taken for granted seemed to vanish, and time seemed to stop.

Toilet paper and alcohol wipes became objects of our affection. When I was growing up, my grandmother would ask while putting away Christmas decorations, "I wonder where we'll be next year or what will be happening?"

I can assure you, Grandma, that no one could have predicted this. Life is like that — sometimes you must alter it to make it fit better. Perfection is certainly overrated.

We begin 2021 with so much hope and two tried and true favorites. The Bach Festival will once again grace our calendar. But how do you showcase the iconic works of the masters while also social distancing? The answer: You think outside the proverbial box.

So, although the stage might be different, the integrity of the 86th annual festival will not disappoint (see pages 20-21).

We also celebrate the 130th birthday of folklorist Zora Neale Hurston with the annual ZORA! Festival in Eatonville, her girlhood home. Learn how the annual celebration began and continues to honor Hurston's enduring legacy (page 22). The internationally celebrated author, whose works vividly and poignantly described the African-American experience, reminds us that words are powerful and can change a moment forever — so choose wisely.

On a final note, you'll notice a few changes in the magazine. We've partnered with a new publisher — Winter Park Publishing Company, best known for the award-winning *Winter Park Magazine* — and will continue to raise the bar in bringing you information about the best of Central Florida's cultural offerings and the people who make it all happen.

So, as we bang pans in the street and set off fireworks, let's celebrate the wins and embrace our community. What will inspire you this year? Roll the dice and celebrate what's good. Remember, there's no greater success than loving greatly and encouraging kindness.



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