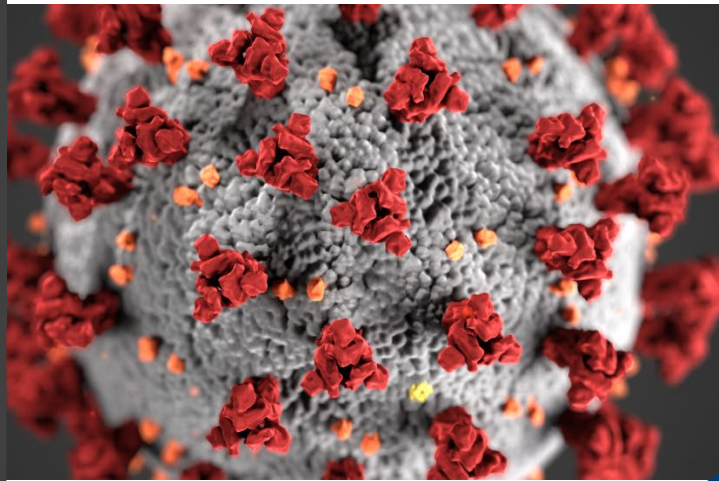


IN THE TIME OF COVID-19



No Justice. No Peace.

My daughter Lucy, 21, is a student at the University of Durham in northeast England. Black Lives Matter protests sparked anti-racism demonstrations across Britain this past weekend. Lucy had just returned to Durham, and I am so proud that she participated in the peaceful protests at Durham Cathedral on June 6. The beauty of this backdrop—a UNESCO world heritage site, which is part of the University—could not be in more contrast to what we are globally demanding—the right to live in dark skin without experiencing brutality from police.

RANI ELWY



After months spent apart, the first gathering in my small town was people coming together for a peaceful demonstration.

**ELIZABETH
MAGUIRE**



Chris and his daughter, Ava, combined their creative efforts for this scratch-built birdhouse!

CHRIS MILLER

WELCOME

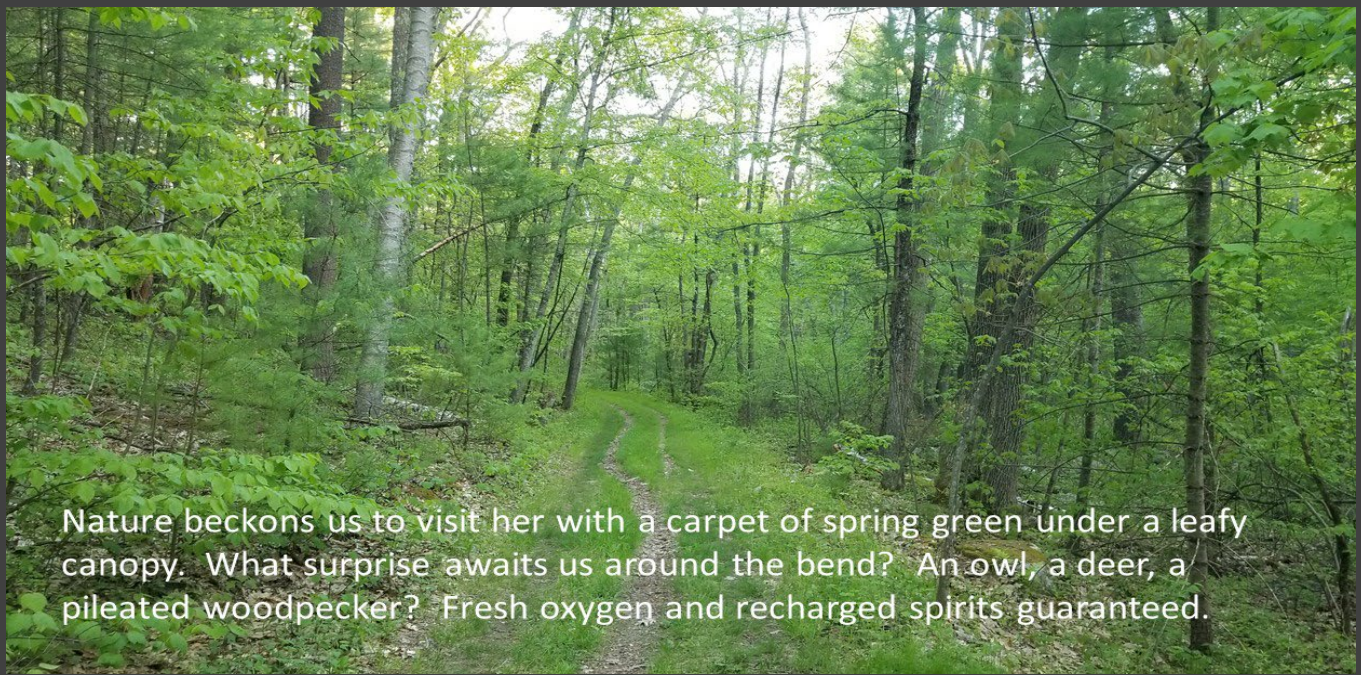
This is CHOIR's collective effort for expressing and documenting our extraordinary, lived experiences in the time of COVID-19.

#COVIDCREATIVITY
@VA_CHOIR on Twitter

Editorial Team: Gemmae Fix, Keith McInnes, Rani Elwy
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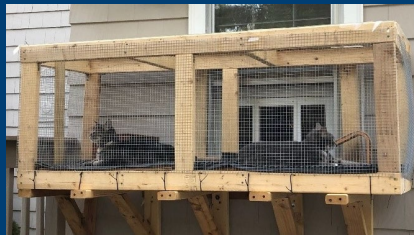


**SEND YOUR
SUBMISSIONS TO:**
RANI.ELWY@VA.GOV



Nature beckons us to visit her with a carpet of spring green under a leafy canopy. What surprise awaits us around the bend? An owl, a deer, a pileated woodpecker? Fresh oxygen and recharged spirits guaranteed.

STEPHANIE SHIMADA



I have three little work buddies that are helping to keep me sane during this crazy time: our cats Lego and Harmony, and Tatum, our Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. It is difficult to fully capture their cuteness in photos, but that hasn't kept me from trying. I've probably taken a thousand photos since the quarantine started. I'll share just a few of them with you.

In addition to napping peacefully on the hassock, bed, and floor and keeping me company all day while I work, they remind me to take breaks (the dog gets frequent backyard breaks now that I'm home). In addition, once 3:00 pm rolls around, all three of them not-so-gently remind me that it's really, truly almost time for dinner.

I also wanted to share that we did a special project this spring: voila, the "catio"! Kudos to my husband Arnie for pulling it off. The cats absolutely love it, and spend easily half their time out there, both day and night. The idea is that they can safely lounge outside without being exposed to predators, and with no fear (for us) of running away or getting hit by cars. They are incredibly spoiled and very happy cats.

ADENA COHEN-BEARAK