



Dear Readers,

Hopefully we are on a new trajectory with the pandemic numbers beginning to subside and vaccinations on the rise. This development will enable us to be more active in our communities and in the arts while cultural organizations will be able to plan in person events although this may still be a ways off.

In this issue, Barbara Rogers highlights the gardens of the Nemours Estate. Barbara wrote about the Christmas traditions in December but this time we are outside where you can explore the extensive gardens that will be open to the public this spring. Nearby is the Hagley Estate which is a museum dedicated to American industry and invention (and there was a lot of it back then) which delivers a special bang thanks to the gunpowder museum, a perfect destination for inquiring young minds and involves its community with volunteers.

Linda Cabasin brings to life the American Writers Museum in Chicago. The AWM is a gem for professional and amateur writers, readers and lovers of books. It is also a tremendous resource for the nearby schools highlighting literary genres and greats in America and has great online resources for educators and readers across the U.S.

For her second article on Dance in the Time of Covid, Catherine Tharin interviewed over 30 professional dance artists around the world on the state of the dance profession - the challenges and fears but also the silver linings and the most precious jewel: room for hope.

Our final article is about Chesterwood, the home of Daniel French, one of America's most talented and well-known sculptors. He completed the famous statue of President Lincoln sitting in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. which, in our minds, is one of the most sacred and inspiring places in America.

Here is to supporting each other and strengthening ourselves, our cultural organizations and thereby our communities.

If you like what you read here, you can find even more good "Sides," on our [website](#). Please forward to friends and they can subscribe to this newsletter at [www.sideofculture.com](http://www.sideofculture.com) where you can find us online.

Thank you for joining us!

Victoria Larson

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### Nemours Estate Gardens

By Barbara Radcliffe Rogers

If the gardens and mansion at Alfred I. du Pont's Delaware estate, Nemours, were built to impress, they were also designed to charm. The regimented and often stiff qualities of formal French gardens – and that is how Nemours is classed – here often slip into a more playful character that makes their grandiose pools, colonnade, fountains and sweeping staircases seem almost intimate.

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### Inspiring Readers at the American Writers Museum

By Linda Cabasin

Colorful displays, touch screens, and videos are some of the surprises at the American Writers Museum (AWM) in Chicago, an engaging celebration of writers past and present. Unique of its kind in America, the AWM explores how writers from different backgrounds and regions have helped shape American history and identity.

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### Hagley Museum: American Industry and Invention

By Barbara Radcliffe Rogers

On the banks of Delaware's Brandywine River, the Hagley Museum & Library has so many different features that it appeals to visitors of all ages and interests. From a real covered wagon to a chance to see how gunpowder is made – and hear the big bang when it explodes – Hagley Museum will appeal to kids. [Read on](#)



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### Dance During Covid, Part II: Interviews with Dancers on Survival, Silver Linings, Transformation Now and the Future

By Catherine Tharin

Societal changes were in the works before the pandemic but the 'pause' has allowed time and space for deeper reflection, for increased activism, and for taking stock. Dancers are uniquely situated to emerge intact from the world pandemic, and perhaps will emerge stronger in ways unimaginable. [Read on](#)



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### Chesterwood: Daniel Chester French's Berkshires Retreat

By Barbara Radcliffe Rogers and Stillman Rogers

Daniel Chester French was at work in his Massachusetts summer home and studio in 1914, when he was commissioned to sculpt the seated Lincoln for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. He completed that work here, and visitors to Chesterwood can browse at leisure through his studio, glimpsing into his artistic life as they see his art in the place where one of America's best-loved images was created. [Read on](#)



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