

## FROM THE EDITOR

Dear friends,

June 1, 2020

How're you holding up? It seems most emails I've written in the past two months have started, "I hope things with you are..." Every time I try to finish that sentence, I end up staring at the computer, trying to think of an adequate word that conveys both care and the reality of this crisis. (I still haven't figured it out, but I'm trying not to worry about it too much.)

In one of his past lives, a dear friend ran a small vegetable farm in rural Vermont. At the market each week, he gave out a newsletter with musings on the previous week's happenings. He hoped it would give people a sense of connection to the farm, a reason to keep buying his produce. As it turned out, people felt so much connection that they would stop by the farm's booth just for the letter, sometimes not buying produce at all! He thought that meant he had a bum marketing strategy, but I think it's a tiny example of how our communities need emotional connection as much as physical nourishment.

Here at CDSS, we've been especially focused on that emotional connection the last several weeks, and we've brought all we could to this edition of the CDSS News. Many of the changes you'll notice in this issue have been a few months in the making—if you've seen our online content recently, you know that we're moving toward more modern design, with clean lines and bold colors. Other additions are a result of us brainstorming ideas to bring a little joy during this crisis. We hope you'll find content in here for your whole household!

We also evaluated all of the News's recurring content and decided, as best we could, if each piece was still relevant in today's world. (If you want to hear the existential beliefs of your entire editorial team, just ask them if they think their magazine should publish a new contra dance while no one is dancing! We decided yes. It's on page 15.) Overall, we've tried to strike a balance between content that longtime readers expect and new additions for readers who haven't felt spoken to before. This is an ongoing process, especially now as our community adapts to and is shaped by this new world.

During this time when so much is on hold, we hope that you find a bit of nourishment in these pages. If and when you're able to "buy our produce," that kind of support will go a long way in making sure we can keep creating connection points and bringing them to you. But regardless of whether you're here for the news or for the veggies, we're here for you, too.

Stay well,



**OPPOSITE:** Sometimes you really need to lie down but you don't want to stop playing your banjo. Photo by Peter Baker, Dance, Music & Spice 2019.

