



Dartmouth-Hitchcock Creative Arts Program

Telling Our Stories: Turning an In-Person Event Into a Virtual Experience

Andrea Buccellato, Manager,
Patient & Family Support Services,
Norris Cotton Cancer Center at
Dartmouth-Hitchcock

The DH-H Creative Arts Team



Marv Klassen-Landis,
Creative Writer & Storyteller



Kim Wenger Hall,
Visual Artist



Margaret Stephens,
Therapeutic Harpist

Marianne Barthel, Director,
Andrea Buccellato, Program Manager
Michelle Davis, Patient and Family Support Services Specialist

Our services are made possible
through collaboration between Norris Cotton Cancer Center and the Dartmouth-
Hitchcock Arts Program, and is primarily funded through Philanthropy

A Highlight of our Creative Arts Program is our “Telling Our Stories in Word and Image” Event



This annual special occasion highlights the work of cancer patients and caregivers as they share their stories through the written word, song, and/or visual arts.

Due to Covid, we realized this intimate event, usually filled with emotion and empathy, could not be held in person in 2020.

What were our options?

How could we recreate this intimate event without bringing people together physically?

Due to Covid, our Creative Arts Program had recently transitioned to virtual small groups and individual sessions, which were generating interest and increasing levels of participation.

Drawing on this success, We determined we would transition the Telling our Stories Program to a video event.

We gathered our resources, enlisting our communications and marketing colleagues to assist us.

We learned that they could help with producing the final video, but First we needed to collect the patient and family work and produce a draft of the video.


NEXT

Marv shared helpful hints with his writing circle participants and others he had worked. with showing them how to record a vide.


Marv also shared instructions on how to submit their video by uploading it to our DH-H drop box.

Top Tips for recording a video of yourself!


These work with laptop, phone, or ipad/tablet.

1. Lighting 

Record yourself facing the window or light source and not with your back against it.

2. Tripod 


Keep camera steady and stable so use a tripod, lean it up against something OR use both hands when recording.

3. Location 


Avoid a distracting background Try to shoot somewhere there isn't a lot of background music, clutter, or noise.

4. Horizontal 


Your laptop is good as is but turn your phone or tablet sideways.

5. Camera 

Switch the camera mode so you can see yourself.

6. Eye Contact 

Look at the tiny camera hole. Smile!

7. Record 

Aim for a natural approach.



NEXT:

Michelle Davis, sent a “Call For Art” to participants of our monthly Art Outlet Classes, inviting them to contribute work to our Telling our Stories Art Exhibit. In previous years this exhibit was displayed in the Cancer Center, this year we would also have a virtual exhibit.

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Patient and Caregiver Media Releases were collected for the videos, art and written work.

Our marketing colleagues filmed introduction videos of Steve Leach, Director of the Cancer Center, and Marv Klassen-Landis, Creative Writer and Master of Ceremonies.

Margaret Stephens created harp videos to be included in the Virtual Art Exhibit and Telling our Stories Video.



NEXT

Marv encouraged collected and reviewed all submitted videos.
He curated the videos and created the credits list

Marv worked our video consultant who combined the short videos into a 45 minute program. This in turn was edited and fine tuned by Marv and team until it reached the final form.

Meanwhile, Michelle collected the photos, artist statements and actual pieces of art for an on site Art Exhibit.

Labels were made of the artists statements and the onsite exhibit was hung in the cancer center hallway by Michelle, Marianne and Kim.



NEXT

Kim Hall created the Virtual Art Exhibit and inserted Margaret's harp music.

Simultaneously, Marv was collecting copies of the written pieces for the annual Telling Our Stories Anthology, which Michelle would design and combine with the art images to be printed at a later date.

We determined we needed a way to bring a sense of intimacy into the event, and came up with the idea of a "Watch Party."

Kim sent a Zoom invite for a "Telling Our Stories Watch Party" to all who had submitted to this program, including staff and friends of the cancer center.

AND THE CURTAIN WENT UP

Meanwhile, We advertised the public program through Face Book, Web Site and newsletters to staff and community.

When all was in final form,
links were posted of the Telling our Stories Art Exhibit and Program Videos on the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Website and Face Book Page.

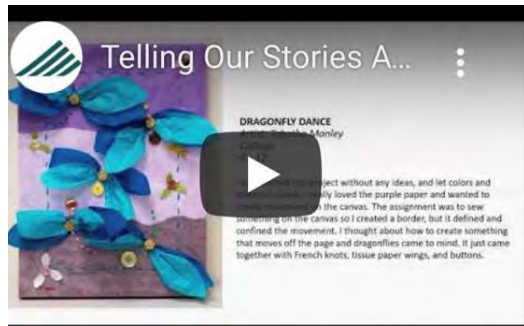
On Tuesday, October 6, 202
the event went live on Face Book, and we simultaneously held the watch party

To give you a taste of the event, Here is an excerpt :

<https://youtu.be/2lev55aKaQY?t=1995>

Tom Davis, A Handful of Pills
Excerpt from the Telling Our Stories Video





Art Exhibit

<https://youtu.be/mlwFkLagOCQ>



Video

<https://youtu.be/2lev55aKaQY>

We met our goal of producing a distinctive event which reached far more people than expected.

75 Previous Attendees 700+ This years attendees

THIS WAS TRULY A SUCCESSFUL TEAM VENTURE

Connecting to our Creative Arts Team

Creative.Arts@Hitchcock.org

https://www.dartmouthhitchcock.org/arts/creative_arts_program.htm

- Marv Klassen-Landis, Creative Writer
- Margaret Stephens, Therapeutic Harpist
- Kim Wenger Hall, Visual Artist

- Marianne Barthel, Director, D-H Arts

- Andrea Buccellato, Program Manager,
Norris Cotton Cancer Center

- Michelle Davis, Patient and Family Resource Specialist
Norris Cotton Cancer Center
Patient & Family Support Services





THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU
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ADDENDUM

OFFERING CREATIVE ARTS DURING THE PANDEMIC

CURRENT VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Current Virtual Creative Arts Virtual Programs:

Creative.Arts@Hitchcock.org

Monthly Art Outlet Art Expression Classes

Individual virtual sessions

Art Kits distributed to inpatient units upon request



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VIRTUAL VISUAL ARTS

To request a personal virtual session with Kim Hall, Visual Artist, please email Creative.Arts@Hitchcock.org

For information contact: (603) 650-7751 or cancersupport@hitchcock.org

The flyer features a portrait of Kim Hall, a woman with glasses and a blue patterned scarf, smiling. The background is a light-colored indoor setting.



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CANCER CENTER

ART OUTLET WORKSHOPS VIA ZOOM

FRIDAYS: JANUARY 8, FEBRUARY 12,
MARCH 12, APRIL 9
2:00-4:00 PM

Registration contact: (603) 650-7751 or cancersupport@hitchcock.org

The flyer includes a photograph of two people, a man and a woman, sitting at a table and painting together. The woman is wearing glasses and a blue cardigan. They are focused on their work, with paint palettes and brushes visible on the table.

Current Virtual Therapeutic Harp Programs

Creative.Arts@Hitchcock.org

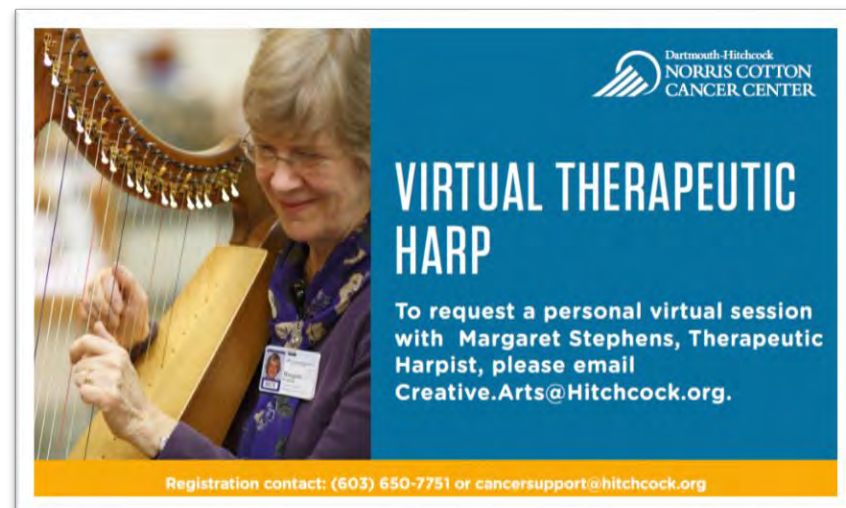


Facebook videos (over 2000 views!)

Daily Calls to staff on nursing units to set up virtual therapeutic harp sessions with patients in their rooms.

Working with Virtual Visit Coordinator Volunteers to connect to patients phones or provide iPad.

Weekly Virtual Concerts for staff.



Virtual Creative Writing Programs

Creative.Arts@Hitchcock.org

Writing Circles for patients, caregivers, D-H volunteers and staff

Bereavement group utilizing creative writing to express grief and loss

Individual writing sessions



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VIRTUAL CREATIVE WRITING

To request a personal virtual session with Marv Klassen-Landis, Creative Writer, please email Creative.Arts@Hitchcock.org

For information contact: (603) 650-7751 or cancersupport@hitchcock.org

The flyer features a photograph of a man in a maroon polo shirt sitting at a desk with a laptop, gesturing with his hands as if in conversation. The background is a blurred office or home workspace.



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THE WRITING CIRCLE

TUESDAYS 6-7:15 PM

SESSION ONE: JANUARY 5 – FEBRUARY 9
SESSION TWO: FEBRUARY 23 – MARCH 30
SESSION THREE: APRIL 13 – MAY 18

A supportive and caring creative writing group for those touched by serious illness.

Registration contact: (603) 650-7751 or cancersupport@hitchcock.org

The flyer features a photograph of a person's hands typing on a laptop keyboard. The background is a blurred office or home workspace.