“I worked as a waitress and bartender, so I’ve always had empathy for the service industry. Though they aren’t first responders, they’re heroes, keeping businesses going until we get through the pandemic. They don’t get the credit they deserve. I don’t think people understood until now that so much of the national conversation takes place in bars and restaurants. It will take years for us to look back and understand how dire and extreme this time was. Hopefully we’ll have a newfound appreciation for people in the industry and an understanding of how important it is to our national culture.”

— Sarah Ryals, area freelance marketer (and Culinary Distancing COS group member)