

Springfield

SCENE MAGAZINE

Karen Hasara
(ON THE COVER)
2018 ATHENA AWARD RECIPIENT



PROFILES

*Andrea
Braundmeier-Fleming, Ph.D.*
SIU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Lois Strom
DENIM & DIAMONDS

Jackie Jackson
UIS ENGLISH PROFESSOR
EMERITUS

Betsy Dollar
SAA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bill Harmon
LLCC AG PROFESSOR

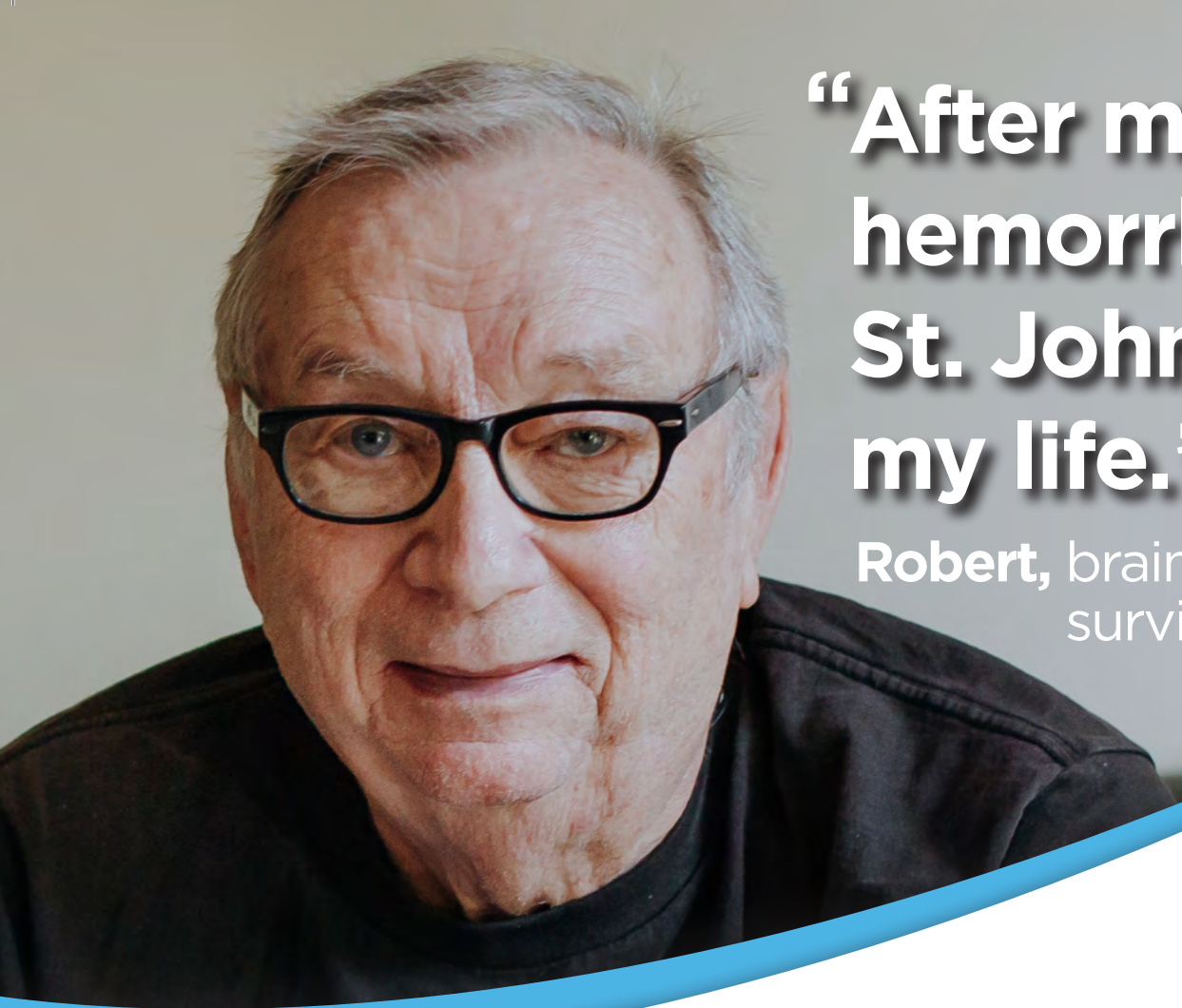
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2018 Issue No. 5 Vol. 14
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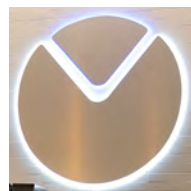


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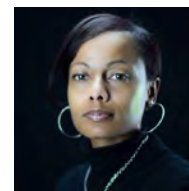
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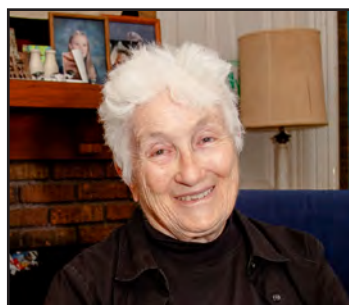


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PHOTOS BY BILL STOKES

Karen Hasara

Recipient of the 2018 ATHENA Leadership Award Illinois Women in Leadership

BY JULIE CELLINI

In a career spanning decades of community and statewide public service, Karen Hasara has had many titles. But recently receiving the Athena award, named for the Greek goddess of wisdom and courage, was a first for even the much-honored Hasara.

“No, I don’t consider myself in a goddess category,” she laughed. “It was quite a surprise when they announced my name as the Athena recipient at the Illinois Women in Leadership annual dinner. I’ve been fortunate to get to do a lot of things in my life, but being a goddess wasn’t one of them.”

Presented yearly by Springfield’s chapter of IWIL, this year’s local Athena Award was selected from a field of ten high achieving women from the Springfield area. Besides Hasara, the field included Rose Amon, Molly Berendt, Dr. Evelyn Campbell, Cindy Denby, Elena Kezelus, Terri Noel, Danielle Outlaw, Gwen Smith and Karen Witter.

The Athena award is international in scope and was inspired by Greek mythology. It has been presented to more than seven thousand leaders worldwide since it was founded in 1982. Hasara is the 20th local recipient since its Springfield inception in 1999.

Hasara has a long record of statewide and local community service. She served as Springfield’s mayor from 1995 to 2003—the only female so far to hold the office.

Hasara began her professional career in 1973 as an elementary school teacher. She entered the political arena in 1975 by being elected to the Sangamon County Board. She served in that capacity until she was elected county circuit clerk in 1980.

On the state government level she served as both a Illinois representative and a senator before being elected in 1995 to two terms as Springfield’s mayor—the only woman elected to the office in the city’s history.

Recently retired after serving eight years on the University of Illinois Board of Trustees, Hasara remains active in the Springfield community through her work with St. Johns

Hospital Hospice program, the World Affairs Council and Women-4Women.

Julie Cellini is a Springfield freelance writer.

Illinois Women In Leadership (IWIL) promotes leadership and management skills. IWIL members enjoy the support and encouragement of fellow members in the organization as they get involved in the community and produce events for the organization. IWIL encourages education, mentors its members and through its meetings provides networking opportunities. Website: iwil.memberclicks.net



Julie Cellini and Karen Hasara attending the Bicentennial Celebration



Karen Hasara's Political Career

<i>Sangamon County Board</i>	<i>1975-1979</i>
<i>Sangamon County Circuit Clerk</i>	<i>1980-1985</i>
<i>Illinois House of Representatives</i>	<i>1986-1991</i>
<i>Illinois Senate</i>	<i>1992-1994</i>
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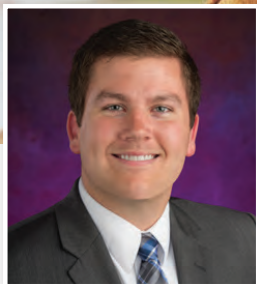
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Andrea Braundmeier-Fleming, PhD

Assistant Professor
Department of Medical Microbiology Immunology and Cell Biology
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at SIU



PHOTOS BY
BILL STOKES

Making A Difference In Cancer Research

BY HILLARY LAMONTAGNE

Andrea Braundmeier-Fleming, Ph.D., has an impressive scientific pedigree. She is an Assistant Professor in both the Department of Medical, Microbiology, Immunology, and Cell Biology as well as in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at SIU School of Medicine. She completed her doctoral training at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Reproductive Immunology. She then went on to pursue post-doctoral training at the University of Illinois Chicago. After her post-doctoral training, she returned to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to work at the Institute for Genomic Biology. She joined the faculty at SIU in 2014 and has been engaged in cancer-specific research since that time.

She is putting this training to use researching various types of cancers right here in our community including ovarian, endometrial, and prostate cancer as well as endometriosis. A major focus of her research is on detecting and treating ovarian cancer in its early stages—research that began with seed money from SIU's annual Denim & Diamonds fundraiser to support cancer research. Unfortunately, ovarian cancer is typically diagnosed in its advanced stages at this time though Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming is doing her part to change this. Her research centers around how the development of ovarian cancer affects the immune system and microbes (e.g. bacteria, viruses, and fungi).

All of this sounded incredibly complicated to me and that is exactly what Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming does not want. She jokes that she hates the term “lay people,” and went on to explain her research in a manner that I was able to follow. Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming explained that cancer drives inflammation which in turn changes our microbes (e.g. bacteria, viruses, and fungi) in terms of “who is there

and how many are there.” With her research, she is investigating whether or not these changes are specific enough to detect different types of cancers.

For ovarian cancer, she identifies different types of microbial features and then tests their ability to predict who has ovarian cancer against what is now being used in the clinic which are blood tumor marker levels. All of her research is conducted with local patients in the SIU Gynecology-



Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming directing laboratory researchers Nhung Le and Taylor Badger on microbial DNA isolation for screening the “biome.”

Oncology Clinic seen by Laurent Brard, M.D., Ph.D. Patients are referred to the Gynecology-Oncology Clinic because they have a suspected growth in their abdomen. They are approached and asked if they want to be a part of this study even before their cancer is confirmed, which most are eager to do. The results Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming is seeing are promising in that they are able to predict cancer just as well as the tumor marker levels and are striving to be even better than the tumor marker levels. The ultimate goal is to be able to catch people in the early stages of cancer, such as stage one which tumor marker levels cannot do.

It is important to note that this same technology can be used in detecting other types of cancer.

Another interesting facet of her research is that the microbial feature set is important in how each individual's body responds to different medicines. Thus, each patient in Dr. Brard's clinic receives a customized treatment and the patient has the knowledge of why they are being treated with a different therapy than another patient in the clinic. Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming emphasizes, “It eliminates the trial and error with different therapies.”

As mentioned, it is typical at this point in time for someone to be diagnosed with ovarian cancer when it is in its late stages. When women suspected of having ovarian cancer present to a doctor's office, they have imaging ordered followed by blood work. If one or both of these tests suggests something abnormal, abdominal surgery will be performed and if a mass is found, it will be sent to pathology to determine whether or not it is cancerous. Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming's ultimate goal is to be able to screen any female patient at their annual gynecological check-up by taking swabs from multiple locations on the patient's body, and if the swab matches one of the microbial profiles specific to ovarian cancer, the treating physician would be able to say that the patient very likely has ovarian cancer without having to perform exploratory surgery. In turn, the physician would have more information if surgery is needed or the option to decide whether to begin treatment with chemotherapy.

Interestingly enough, Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming credits God with her involvement in cancer research as she initially said she would not go into cancer research explaining that as an immunologist, cancer doesn't fit with a clear immune attack. She also noted that she doesn't like to fail and knew cancer research would be “harder for

me to be successful at.” However, two of her close friends were diagnosed with late stage cancer and she became angry and decided to channel this anger into cancer research. She talked about how her plans for her career never went as she had planned stating, “God directed me onto His plan. I really feel that God wants me doing cancer research, which I said I wouldn’t do.”

She decided to become a scientist after being diagnosed with endometriosis at age 14. Her condition was so painful that she was advised to have a hysterectomy at age 18, but refused to accept this recommendation due to her desire to have a family. Today, she and her husband are the parents of three children. She continues to struggle with endometriosis and is actively engaged in research for this condition as mentioned. When asked how she manages to juggle such a busy personal and professional life, she spoke of the importance of taking things one day at a time and said, “My faith is very strong.” She finds

her commute to Springfield from the Bloomington area relaxing.

Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming chose to come to SIU because of the “strong clinical collaborations here.” She finds that Simmons Cancer Institute is very supportive of her research and commented, “The strength of SIU is that we can really partner with strong clinical scientists who are very invested in what we do on the bench side of things.” She is grateful for the assistance of her three interns who have been able to be a part of the entire research process with her.

As someone who hates the stereotype that scientists are “nerds who hide out in labs,” Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming does her part to educate patients and encourage them to be advocates for their own health. She wants people diagnosed with cancer to become experts regarding their illness and not be afraid to have conversations with their physicians, noting that often people are intimidated by the idea of talking with their doctor.

A successful woman in a STEM field Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming shares her advice for girls and young women considering a career in a STEM field. “Don’t overthink it. It’s just problem-solving.” Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming said. “If you have a passion to find answers, then do it. Be curious. Have a drive to find answers and solve problems and keep that as your root.” She also finds it helpful to have a positive mentor and maintains contact with the strong female mentor she chose in her undergraduate studies.

This dynamic researcher highlights the exemplary medical talent and resources we are fortunate to have in the Springfield community. For more information on SIU’s Simmons Cancer Institute or the upcoming Denim & Diamonds fundraiser, please visit www.siumed.edu/cancer.



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Lois Strom

Looking to a Brighter Future for Ovarian Cancer Diagnosis

BY HILLARY LAMONTAGNE

Little did Lois Strom know when she was the event chair of SIU's Denim and Diamonds in 2013 that she would be diagnosed with Stage IV cancer in 2017. The cancer spread from her ovaries to her lungs, spleen, liver, and colon. She is currently doing chemotherapy after having surgery and is pleased to report she is improving. "It's called the silent killer" she said explaining that rarely does a woman have any symptoms which was true in her case. Having no family history



PHOTO BY BILL STOKES

of cancer, she felt "blindsided" by this diagnosis.

Mrs. Strom wishes Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming's research would have been available to her, she said wistfully, describing how this would have likely prevented her cancer from spreading and alleviated the need for such a toxic type of chemotherapy. As the mother of two daughters and the grandmother of two granddaughters, she has high hopes that Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming's research will someday be available to them.

These days, Mrs. Strom maintains her support for Denim & Diamonds as a current board member. She became involved with the fundraiser after retiring from SIU's Department of Surgery and served on the board for this event from 2010-2014. Smiling broadly, she described the experience

as "Phenomenal—to see it grow each year. To see the funds raised and the different research that is funded." She explained that research that starts at SIU may qualify for national grants and spoke of her appreciation that "there are actual clinical trials with the patients" at Simmons Cancer Institute as opposed solely to lab research.

In addition to her praise for the research being done by Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming, Mrs. Strom expressed gratitude for the care she receives from her physician, Dr. Brard who partners with Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming for the ovarian cancer research study she is conducting. She spoke highly of his ability to put patients at ease, honesty, and willingness to spend time with his patients. She went on to state, "We have very good medical care in Springfield. We're very fortunate."

Though Dr. Brard has informed her that her ovarian cancer will return, she is hopeful that once she becomes cancer-free, it will be several years before it comes back. She maintains her optimistic outlook due to "a supportive husband and wonderful group of friends and acquaintances who won't let me get down." She went on to emphasize her belief that "anybody who goes through cancer treatment needs a support system. You can't do it alone." She also finds that trying to follow her normal routine and to remain active is crucial. One of the highlights of her routine is meeting a group of her friends at Panera each Tuesday. With her positive attitude, her cancer better watch out.





Lincoln Land
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Bill Harmon

Agronomy Professor
LLCC

According to Professor Harmon the expression that your corn should be knee high by the 4th of July is no longer valid. Today's corn should be head high or more by the 4th of July.

PHOTO BY BILL STOKES

LLCC Ag Program Poised To Take Advantage Of The Fast Growing Job Opportunities In Agri-Business

BY BILL STOKES

According to a study presented by Purdue University and the United States Department of Agriculture, college graduates with an education in food, agriculture, renewable natural resources, or the environment are expected to fill just 61% of the expected 57,900 average annual openings with companies in the Agri-Business sector.

These types of degrees are essential to our ability to address the U.S. priorities of food security, sustainable energy, and environmental quality.

In March of this year Karen Sanders, Executive Director of the LLCC Foundation announced that the college's Agricultural Program would be the beneficiary of the annual proceeds from the Kreher Farm Perpetual Charitable Trust with total assets of \$18 million. Bill Harmon, LLCC's Ag Program Coordinator and Agronomy Professor said, "The Kreher's gift is beyond 'once in a lifetime,' it's in the realm of 'I can't believe this is really happening.'"

The Kreher's desire is that agriculture be promoted to the benefit of students, farmers and the community as a whole.

With this financial support LLCC plans to make the college a center of excellence in agriculture education. They plan to build the program, increase the number of job opportunities filled with qualified LLCC graduates and improve agricultural literacy in our community.

LLCC could find no better advocate of the Ag Program than Harmon. He shared that jobs in agriculture are growing at a rapid rate. Jobs are not only on the farms but in the industries that support farming. The jobs are very diverse and offer good pay, benefits and job security.

Harmon said the need to feed the people of the world is growing faster than we can grow food so there is much research and work needed to figure out how to do this. He's optimistic based on what he is seeing in agriculture R&D.

Harmon has been teaching at LLCC for 22 years. He said that LLCC has begun the process of transforming the agriculture program. "We have hired a full-time program specialist, Holly Bauman, who is recruit-

ing students, as well as expanding our partnerships with local ag related community businesses and agencies to identify opportunities for employment. We will continue to explore the viability for new program offerings in ag, as well as growing our nationally recognized livestock judging team, headed by Professor Craig Beckmier. Students will be conducting research projects under the guidance of Professor Rich Teeter as part of our

overall plans. We have initiated discussions on offering LLCC agriculture classes to nearby high schools."

According to Harmon, LLCC's Ag Department is well positioned to educate the leaders of tomorrow in Agriculture.



Professor Harmon giving instructions on how to operate the combine simulator.

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PHOTOS BY BILL STOKES

Jackie Jackson

Jacqueline Dougan Jackson, now a retired Professor of English from the University of Illinois at Springfield, grew up on a Wisconsin dairy farm. Much of her recently published work is derived from those childhood experiences. Her gift is her teaching skills that have a life long impact on everyone who takes one of her classes, goes with her on tours or sits with her in her home where she continues her teaching tradition.

BY CINDA ACKERMAN KLICKNA

Mention the name Jackie Jackson to someone in Springfield, and you're bound to hear, "Jackie made a profound influence on my life."

She is a social activist, writer, and the author of many books including the four-volume series, *The Round Barn: A Biography of an American Farm*. And at the age of 90, she isn't slowing down. But there are three things that have had the greatest impact on people (and make her the most proud): teaching at Sangamon State University (now the University of Illinois at Springfield), implementing a radio/writing program and Jamborees for kids, and leading class trips to England.

In 1970 Jackie was one of the founding faculty of the new Sangamon State University. She had a master's degree from the University of Michigan, although it was in Latin, not in English. She was 42 years old and had already written books, had taught at Kent State, and had produced a writing/radio program for children through the University of Wisconsin's School of the Air. Because of her published writing and radio work, Sangamon State hired her with a PhD equivalency. In addition, she was raising four children, the youngest only four when she came to Springfield.

The Sangamon State non-traditional approach appealed to her. She says, "We were allowed to teach using the units the university promoted, in Environment and People, Justice and Social Order, etc. We could teach as we wanted."

She fit in with this style. She was "different," say some, and didn't just rely on the typical "lectures and tests." When students entered her classroom on the first night of class, she would usually be sitting on the floor, with only one lamp providing light in an oth-

erwise dark room. Often, to start the class, she would read aloud and play music. Some of her former students admit that they felt uncomfortable at first. That didn't last long.

Jackie used interesting techniques to bring literature alive. She – and her students – might dress up as a character, put on different costumes, provide food or play music that matched what



Jackie writes a poem each week for the Illinois Times.

the writing was about. Her classes in writing and children's literature had waiting lists to get in.

Some classes even met off campus at Jackie's friend's house on Lake Springfield where there would be food and deep conversation about the writing assignments for the week.

What the students quickly experienced was first, a "calming transition" from their hectic lives into class time. Secondly, they all felt a deep sense of the "community" Jackie created, with and among the students.

Jackie can be proud that creating "community" is what people acknowl-

edge, for she says, "Everybody is scared about their own writing so how do you get rid of that? By creating community; the teacher has to be a part of that community. I often sat on the floor; that way I was below them, not standing over them like a lecturer. I told stories but never lectured."

She required that each student produce writing each week, share it with the others and get feedback so they could hone their writing skills. She would pore through the many pieces turned in and the next week return the writing to each student with helpful comments and suggestions written in pencil – no red ink. She encouraged them to try new writing techniques, prodded them to think deeper, and asked them to make constructive comments to others.

Current teachers who took Jackie's classes have taken to heart what she promoted. Kelley Jeffers, Feitshans Elementary School teacher, Margie Buyze, District 186 literature and social studies instructional leader, and Teresa Holton, Southeast High School English teacher, use some of the techniques in their own teaching that they experienced in Jackie's classes. Jeffers says she often uses soft lighting and music to help students transition to reading or writing; that creates a "place of calm like Jackie did for me – I always remember how she opened class and how it made it easier to transition from a mom after a hectic day to a student ready to learn." For Buyze it is important to develop community. "Honoring kids in their feelings about writing is important. Jackie gave us confidence and helped us look at ourselves as writers and improve our craft. I have taken that to my teaching." For Holton, it is important to allow students to practice creative writing and encourage them along the way. "Jackie helped me find my voice and style; I want my students to find theirs."

Jackie Jackson and Richard Adams, the author of *Watership Down*. Adams hosted Jackie and her tour group for an afternoon while visiting England. Photo credit Unknown.



Jackie's influence expands beyond the classroom and the individual student. She always learned about the students and their families, and many say she has a big heart: helping when someone is ill, bringing a book to a newborn, helping students get their thesis approved, finding a student a new opportunity such as an internship in an area of interest. She has aided her grandkids through college using invested college funds. While teaching, she set up community service field work for students and visited them at their sites. She keeps in touch with many through letters.

Nancy Pistorius, a fiction writer now living in Kansas, was influenced by Jackie long before she met her. As a child, Pistorius checked out a library book, *Julie's Secret Sloth*, that she loved. It was written by Jackie Jackson. Years later, Pistorius had the chance to take Jackie's Fantasy Literature class at Sangamon State. Pistorius knows first-hand what a big heart Jackie has; she and Jackie had stayed in touch and recently, when Pistorius lost her mother, Jackie drove all the way to Kansas for the funeral.

Some care could be called tough love. When one student needed to finish his thesis, a children's book, she requested he come back to Springfield, stay at her house and finish the book. He showed up, thinking he could come and go and work on the book when he wished. She put her foot down, "No, go out and see your friends and then be back here by morning. After that,

you're not leaving the house until you finish the book." Jackie says, "It turned out to be a good book!"

Martin Woulfe, minister at the Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation, says Jackie has influenced his ministry even though he never had her as a teacher. He recalls the time he referenced a parable from a popular book in one of his sermons; Jackie declared it was an example of bad ethics and that her students had written better ones. "I used one she provided me as a replacement. And Jackie wrote a parable that I offered to the congregation."

Since she taught writing and children's literature, it was natural for her to embark on ways to encourage children to write. For two years before she came to Springfield and another five years after moving here, she produced a weekly children's radio program for Wisconsin Public Radio, called *The Writer is You*. Bringing the same format to the new Sangamon State radio station, then called WSSR, was a natural extension. Started in 1975, it was called *Reading and Writing and Radio*. Young children, accompanied by Jackie, would read their writing on air. Jim Grimes was the program manager for Jackie's radio show and later taught communications at the Capital Area Career Center. He remembers Jackie bringing kids into the station and "making them feel comfortable reading their pieces on air."

Jim's wife, Jan Grimes, started taking

classes, and says, "Because of Jackie, I earned my degree and know my career was influenced by the opportunities Jackie gave me. She has been the most important person in my life – except for my husband." Grimes later served as the Director of the Capital Development Board and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

Jackie designed and executed an annual Jamboree on the campus of Sangamon State, which grown-ups today still talk about attending. Jackie's eyes sparkle as she describes the day. "Around 1000 kids, mainly in 4th through 7th grades from the entire area, accompanied by their teachers, came to campus, all having prepared something to present to others." On Jamboree Plaza, set up with microphones, classes presented their project. While one class performed, two other classes watched so the kids learned about performing in front of an audience. Classes rotated through their performance time and then met in classrooms across campus and learned about diverse topics from SSU professors. The students also toured the radio station. Then, at lunchtime, students gathered under a pennant identifying the name of their school and/or teacher. Jackie had arranged for every class to be pen pals to another class, and at lunch the kids got to meet their pen pals. "It was great fun, and the kids learned a lot. Many of the teachers participated every year. I am very proud of what was accomplished through the many Jamborees," Jackie says.

Finally, the England trips have become lasting memories for many of her former students. Jackie lived in England near Oxford in the 1950s when her husband was doing research. One of her daughters was born in England, and later Jackie went on bicycling trips with family and friends in England.

It was on one trip in the early 1980s when she was bicycling on her own that an unexpected stop helped her formulate a trip. She was bicycling through a misty, cold rain and began to question going much farther so she found a hostel for the night. Inside, there was a large, hanging tapestry depicting rabbits. Jackie discovered that the area was the setting for the book *Watership Down* by Richard Adams. Rabbits are the main characters in the book. So, Jackie went exploring. The book was already one she had been teaching, and she

realized the area would make a perfect spot to bring students to explore.

Jackie says, "I played the role of the brash American and went to the author's house and knocked on the door. He answered, and I told him how much my father enjoyed his book and that I planned to bring 24 students to England the following year." Adams invited her in for tea, offered to join her and the students on a tour of the Watership Down setting the following year and even encouraged her to bicycle to another author's home, Rosemary Sutcliffe, which was 20 miles away. Jackie was excited as her students had been reading Sutcliffe's books, also.

Sutcliffe, too, invited her in for tea. Over the next few months, they exchanged letters and struck up a friendship. Jackie wanted her students to see the author they loved but knowing Sutcliffe was disabled, she didn't want to impose so she asked: when she and the students came to the area, "could the bus pull up to your door and you just wave to us?" Sutcliffe said yes, and to the surprise of all when they arrived, she invited them in, had set up tables and served them tea and scones.

In all, Jackie led eight trips to England, each with a different focus such as mystery, fantasy, children's literature, etc. She took students to famous sites such as Canterbury Cathedral. Rose Hutches, retired from communications at Franklin Life, first recalls the afternoons her young son listened "devotedly" to Jackie's radio program. Later, Hutches joined Jackie's England Fantasy Tour.

Jan Grimes says there is a "magic of Jackie Jackson." She sees a possibility, takes steps, bold and daring at times, to make a possibility become a reality.

Jackie's admirers say she is a listener, not a talker. But, get her started, and the stories flow for hours about interesting experiences that she has had. One comes away learning about events in history, authors she has met, places she has traveled – and wanting more. Often, she doesn't hold back in expressing her opinions about many things.

The consummate teacher, she still holds weekly writing and sharing sessions in her home. Lately, she has been spending hours every day, with



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the help of Karen Stroemer, assistant principal at Franklin Middle School, in archiving thousands of letters, documents and artifacts. Stroemer says, "I'll come across something and ask Jackie what it is, and she will launch into a story about it; I'm so intrigued with her knowledge and the experiences that are in her head. It is baffling to me how she knows so much."

Jeanne Handy, a former student says, "Jackie lives life with an exclamation point, compelling me and others by

her example to continue writing, to continue seeking, and to continue learning."

Jackie Jackson is one of a kind, and those who know her, love her.

Cinda Ackerman Klickna never had the chance to take Jackie Jackson's classes while at SSU, but just might join her writing group.



Betsy Dollar

Executive Director
Springfield Art Association



PHOTOS BY
BILL STOKES



A Tireless Crusader For The Springfield Art Community

BY KAREN ACKERMAN WITTER

Betsy Dollar was raised in a family of artists and surrounded by art her entire life. Director of the Springfield Art Association (SAA) since 2009, she has raised the profile of the arts in Springfield through her passion and leadership. Robert Sill, Interim Director of the Illinois State Museum, says, "Betsy Dollar is a tireless crusader for the Springfield art community. She has done an amazing job improving the SAA facilities and programs so artists, students and art lovers can come learn, interact, and make art. Betsy has helped bring this art community closer together."

The long and rich history of the Springfield Art Association and vision of the founders attracted Dollar to move to Springfield nine years ago. She affectionately calls the original visionaries the "founding mothers" – women who believed that the arts could make a difference and change society. Dollar is committed to that original vision and wants people to know that the Springfield Art Association is for everyone. The SAA presents exhibitions and educational programs at its facilities and also takes art to the public outside its walls through public murals, festivals, art education programs in schools and so much more.

Lisa Clemmons Stott, Executive Director of Downtown Springfield, Inc., says, "Betsy has helped usher in an era where public art has increased throughout our community because of her guidance and permission for staff and board to think bigger and less traditionally. She and her board have been extremely strategic in following their century-old mission and charting a course for the here and now. The results speak for themselves."

Raised in a family of artists

Both of Dollar's parents and her grandmother attended the Art Institute of Chicago, and her grandmother taught

there briefly. Dollar attended classes at the Art Institute when she was in high school. After graduation she attended the Minneapolis College of Art and Design for two years, returned to Chicago where she was trained as a film animator and later moved to Colorado where she received her BFA in printmaking and papermaking at the University of Colorado, Boulder and subsequently her MFA. She has taught art at every level from elementary school through college in Colorado and Minnesota. Dollar specializes in the art of handmade papermaking. She says, "I continue to make art because it is an important part of who I am and how I can express my ideas."

Clearly Dollar is passionate about art and what it contributes to society. She says, "Creativity and imagination are so important. Much of the educational system has veered away from building these skills, but these are skills that can change the world. It is where innovation comes from. The arts open up new ways of learning. Math is about patterns, which is actually art. Science and biology carry over into art. You can teach science through art and vice versa."

SAA – promoting and supporting the visual arts, providing art education and preserving the historic Edwards Place

The Springfield Art Association is a multi-faceted organization, which has been a resource to the community for over 100 years. There's something for everyone at the SAA. SAA offers summer art camps for kids and community art classes, presents curated art exhibitions, provides an art outreach program for area schools, supports local artists and sponsors art fairs and festivals. One of the most popular events is the Edwards Place Fine Art Fair, featuring juried artists from throughout the country. The 30th anniversary of the Fine Art Fair is September 15 - 16.

There are also offerings for those

who like a little libation with their art. Canvas and Cocktails are held on Friday nights, and on Saturday, October 6th there will be a History Happy Hour with rum as the focus. Other programs include the Molly Schlich Independent/International film series, which brings eight critically acclaimed films to a local movie theater, and an Artful Readers Book Club. Opening Minds through Art programs are designed for Alzheimer's and dementia patients.

The SAA also preserves and interprets the historic Edwards Place. This recently restored Italianate mansion was built in 1833 and was once a center for social activity in Springfield. Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas, David Davis, numerous governors and other prominent citizens were entertained at this historic location in Enos Park.

The SAA has been important to the revitalization of the Enos Park neighborhood. Michelle Owneby, President of the Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association (EPNIA), says, "The Springfield Art Association is one of the core anchors of the Enos Park area, and under Betsy's leadership, the SAA has been a strong partner with EPNIA. Betsy serves on the EPNIA board of directors and helped ensure that the master plan for their campus correlated with the master plan for the neighborhood. Redevelopment efforts have progressed on both sides over the last several years. In addition, Betsy brought us the idea of the artist-in-residency program, which has been a great opportunity for the neighborhood. The SAA brings in artists from all over the country to live and work in Enos Park for short periods of time. The artists attend our neighborhood activities and engage with the people living here."

Many cite the artist-in-residency program as one of Dollar's most significant accomplishments. Dollar says there are many creative and talented people in the community, but it is an



aging population and many young people don't stay. The Enos Park artist-in-residency program is one way to try and get creative people to stay and help build the next generation of creative citizens. Dollar says, "The arts bring people together. When you bring artists into a struggling neighborhood, the area improves. They repair, paint, plant flowers and make the area look better, providing an inspiration to others. That is the hope for Enos Park."

Another of Dollar's major accomplishments was the merger of the Prairie Art Alliance with the SAA. This was no small feat. Dollar observed a lot of duplication of effort between the two organizations, particularly in the area of art education. The idea of merging the organizations was not a universally popular idea. Eventually others were convinced that one organization could serve both the best. Now, the H.D. Smith Gallery at the Hoogland Center for the Arts, formerly the Prairie Art Alliance, operates as the SAA Collective. It features exhibits and a sales gallery with work by juried local artists. The exhibitions at the SAA main campus at 700 S. 4th Street feature local as well as regional and national artists and the art education programs.

Outreach and community engagement

A priority for Dollar is to make art education the core of the organization. Some people get that experience by coming through the doors, but for others the SAA takes art to them. Art is evident throughout Springfield, thanks to the SAA, which is a key local partner in this year's Illinois Bicentennial celebration. As part of a summer art camp, high school students painted images related to the Illinois Bicentennial on Clear Lake Avenue at the gateway to downtown. Another group of summer art camp teens created a mural on the side of Springfield's Lincoln Library. While the mural on Clear Lake highlights Illinois history, the downtown mural features a futuristic image of Springfield. Another mural will be completed later this year.

SAA is also committed to working with local schools. In memory of Bronwyn Eves, a past president of the SAA who was passionate about art, the SAA is partnering with local schools to provide hands-on workshops that engage the entire student body, culminating in the creation and installation of a public art project. One school is selected

each year. McClernand Elementary School is located across the street from the SAA. McClernand students made ceramic stars, which were used to create a large-scale Mosaic Star Sculpture on the grounds outside the school. St. Patrick's Elementary School created a mural for their multipurpose room, and a project with Butler Elementary School is coming up.

For many years the SAA has provided Art Outreach teaching portfolios to schools, which can be checked out. Digital versions have now been created and are available to any educational institution across the country. Schools from Utah to Washington, D.C have already used these.

Going Forward

Dollar says she is most proud of building a great staff that shares a vision and passion for the organization. She says, "Together we are bringing the SAA back to life as a vibrant arts organization that contributes to the community and quality of life in Springfield." Recent accomplishments include restoring the interior of Edwards Place to be more historically accurate and showcase life in Springfield during Lincoln's era, remodeling the M.G. Nelson Family Gallery with enhanced lighting to better present art exhibitions and improving the existing art studios.

Dollar is most excited about the upcoming opening of the new building, which will house studios for ceramics, metals and glass. All of the improvements and the new studios are made possible through the generosity of local donors. The new studio building represents phase five of the Centennial Capital Campaign. The building is scheduled for completion in September, with the first classes to be offered in January. Hot Blown Glass by Lisa Pelo from Clayton, Indiana will be giving a public demonstration on Saturday, September 22, providing a glimpse into what's coming with the new hot glass studio.

So what is next for the Springfield Art Association? Dollar says her goals for the future are "to continue to engage the people of Springfield in the arts and enliven the community creatively, encourage people to believe that the arts are for everyone and of value to everyone, keep all the studios filled with people of all ages expanding their creativity and learning new skills, at-

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A ground breaking ceremony was held on May 12th for the new building on the north side of the SAA campus. Through the generous gifts of local donors the building will accommodate a hot glass studio and a ceramics lab. Donors and VIP's are pictured above: Front row- Mayor Jim Langfelder Donna Nelson, Kate Baima, Carole Walton (Capital Campaign Co-Chair), Patricia Altorfer, SAA Executive Director Betsy Dollar. Back row: M. G. Nelson, Joe Baima, Don Walton (architect and Capital Campaign Co-Chair), Don Altorfer, Roland Folse (wife Hazen not present). Donors Dan and Carolyn Dungan and Bill and Mary Schnirring were not present.

tract more visitors to Edwards Place and create more activities that encourage people to explore the house and its history.”

Although the Springfield Art Association is a membership organization, you don't have to be a member to participate. The SAA is open to everyone who wants to experience the visual arts or history of Springfield. Check out the art exhibits, purchase art in the galleries or at the annual Edwards Place Fine Art Fair, take a class, attend one of the many events on or off site, browse the library, or go to one of the many diverse program offerings. For more information and upcoming opportunities, go to <https://www.springfieldart.org/>.

Karen Ackerman Witter is the former Associate Director of the Illinois State Museum, where she had the pleasure of interacting with Betsy Dollar on collaborative projects. She was delighted to serve as a community member on the SAA search committee when Betsy was hired.



Team BUNN Leads The United Way Campaign With Purpose



PHOTO BY
BILL STOKES

The Campaign Leadership Team: Angie Comstock, Bob Bunn, John Voss and Desiree Logsdon. Not present for the photo is Hy Bunn.

“Act with Purpose”

BY DESIREE LOGSDON

The 2018 United Way Campaign is in full swing. “The team thought it would be more effective and certainly more fun to take a team approach for this campaign, so our leadership team is *Team BUNN*”, says Hy Bunn. Team members include Hy Bunn-President & CEO, Bob Bunn-BUNN Gourmet, John Voss-CFO, Angie Comstock-VP Associate General Counsel and Desiree Logsdon-SVP Corporate Citizenship.

The theme for this year’s campaign is *Act with Purpose to Make a Positive Difference*. “We chose this theme because it ties directly into the mission we live everyday at BUNN. Our primary mission is to *Act with Purpose to Make a Positive Difference in the People and Communities We Touch*. This mission directly aligns with the great work that United Way of Central IL does in the community”, states Hy Bunn.

To better understand the mission and vision of the United Way, co-chair Bob Bunn is serving a one-year term on the Board of Directors for the organization. Bob explains, “My time on the Board has given me a clear understanding of the critical services the United Way provides to our community. The Board carefully vets all requests for funding to ensure that they are being fiscally responsible with donor’s contributions. United Way offers donors choices. They have the option of contributing to the Community Fund with four focus areas including basic needs, education, financial stability and health; or they have the option to direct a donation to a specific charity of their choice.”

“The momentum for this year’s campaign is positive”, says John Voss. He adds, “I have spoken

with other community leaders and they all feel optimistic that their individual company campaigns will be very successful. People in this community understand and support the great work United Way provides.”

Enthusiasm for the campaign is high among BUNN employees at the Springfield facilities. A fundraising event has already taken place for this year’s campaign. The annual BUNN Run United 5K was held in Washington Park on July 21. “Other events are planned for the remainder of the year, including Food Truck Days at both BUNN Springfield campuses”, states Desiree Logsdon. She adds, “The special events not only build awareness of the great work United Way does, but they also

add a level of fun and excitement to the campaign and build comradery among employees.”

Angie Comstock who also serves on the United Way Board of Directors and Executive Committee shared, “We are energized about this year’s campaign and excited about the momentum that the entire United Way team is building to make a positive impact in our community. We appreciate all the great leadership and support from the United Way staff, Cabinet, Loaned Executives, Relationship Managers and dedicated volunteers both here at BUNN and throughout the community that make this campaign a success!”



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=



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Investiture

The investiture of Dr. Debra Klamen, MHPE, took place June 21 at the South Auditorium of the SIU School of Medicine on N. Rutledge in Springfield. The investiture ceremony bestowed upon her, the honors of the Richard H. Moy endowed Chair of Excellence in Medical Education. A reception preceded the ceremony in the Pearson Museum.



Kate Fleming-Huhn, Bonnie Klamen, Dr. Debra Klamen, Dr. Jerry Kruse and Dr. Marcia Clever



Anna Cianciolo, Emily Lane and Kari Wolf



Dr. Jeanne Koehler, Jean Afflerbach, Shelley Tischkau



Crystal Wilson and Chet Bright



Dr. Roger Kim and Dr. Sook Yung Suh



Gary and Audrey Robinson



Resident Austin Beason and Dr. Philip Pan



Theresa Waters, Chris Reavis and Tina White



Dr. Tom Wright and Martin Kuhn



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Presidents In Pumps is a women's empowerment group whose mission is to encourage women to connect, to cooperate, and to collaborate in a community environment in order to build businesses, wealth, and legacies. They held their first mixer on July 31st.

For more information go to: Presidents in Pumps on Facebook



Amanda Lavin, Angela Harden, Dana Goodrum and Stephanie Fuller



Melissa Hamilton, Peggi Trees Gant, LaShonda Fitch and Aprill Edwards



Aaliyah Kissick and Alex Harden



Donna Gregg and Cassandra Austin



Sherry Feagans and Deborah Loreno



Caroline Brown, Rosa Harper, Rianne Hawkins, Irma Wallace, and Melverta Wilkins



Nancy Collins, Lakeisha Purchase, and Rosa Harper



Kavida Jones, Deidra Dixon and Neshie Dixon



Shalon Lott, Patty Cake, and Mea Buckner



Sonya Perkins and Shavon Francis



Veris Van And Dr. Brenda Dixon



Missy Norman and Rianne Hawkins



Michelle Smith



Michele Harmony and Tami Klein



Aprill Anderson Edwards, Capria Jones, Monte Kay Jones



Deidra Dixon, Tara Allbritton and Heidi Dillon

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Janie Siciliano and Amamda Thompson



Ashley Harden and Angela Harden



Sheila Feipel, Nancy Collins, and Diane Beauchamp



Shanell Bowden, Kristen Franklin, and Krista Burns



Yvette Tucker, Toni Hopkins, Oneathia Perkins, and Sherri Leopold



Samantha Raymond, Rianne Hawkins, Sue Scherer, and Liz Mitchell



The second annual Amaranth Apple Festival celebrating the state's bicentennial year, took place July 13 and 14 on 5th and Adams at the Old State Capitol. The event, which honors Springfield's favorite native poet Vachel Lindsay, features local culinary fare and musical delights of the area. The money raised at the event funds DSI's non-profit mission to champion and revitalize the downtown district.



Minesh, Lalana and Rupal Patel, Dr. Alok Gupta, Dr. Rachel Reeves, Rohan and Tara Jain



Carl Riddell, Keith Lael, Patti and Kim Sauer



Ian Richardson, Bob Mabie and Hannah Richardson



Gary and Suzette Starr



Mark Sanders and Fiona Irvin



Dawn and Sarah Malik



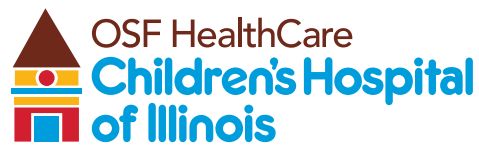
Tom Filla and Peter Taylor

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SPRINGFIELD ART ASSOCIATION



Jim Huston, Polly Poskin, Carol Corgan and Allan Stinnett

The Springfield Art Association held their weekly Friday night Canvas & Cocktails on July 13 at the SAA at Edwards Place on 4th Street in Springfield. The classes feature members creating their own themed art while sipping and savoring cocktails and appetizers.



Rachel and Sarah Adams and Jenna Broom



Stephanie Martin and Lance Garrison



Carole Walton, Rich and Becky Owens



Curator Curtis Mann, Tom Roate and Don Walton



Mario and Julie Costa



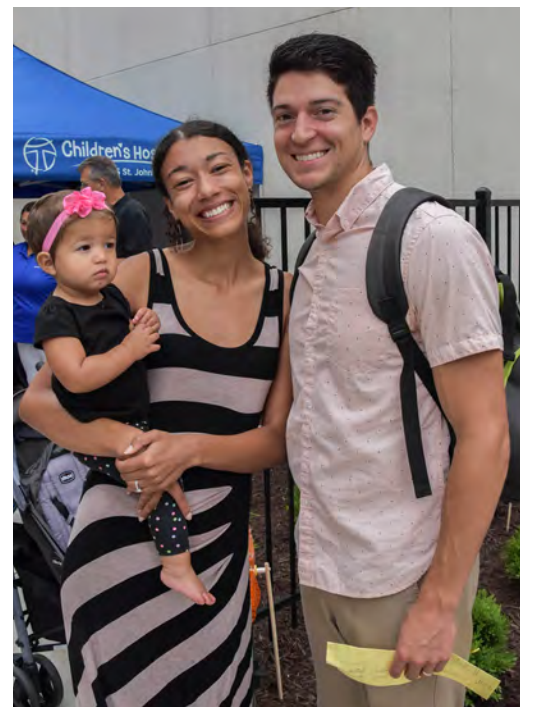
Jennifer Wagner and Jill Komnick



Elizabeth and Josh Watson

The grand opening of the long-awaited Kidzeum took place with speeches and ribbon cutting on Adams Street in downtown Springfield on July 21. Kids ranging from ages 4 to 94 came out to play and learn at the hands-on, Kidzeum of Health and Science.

PHOTOS BY JULI PENNELL



Rachael Thomson, President of Kidzeum Board and Dr. Chuck Lucore, CEO, HSHS St. John's Hospital

Leah, Ciara and Tom DeMare



Mayor Jim Langfelder, former Rep. Rich Brauer, Dr. Chuck Lucore and Joe Langfelder

Payton Hicks, Richard and Owen Stoye, Brenda Hicks and Terrell King Brown

Savannah, Raina, Jim and Harrison Kolba



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Auggie Peifer and Angie Fitzjarrell



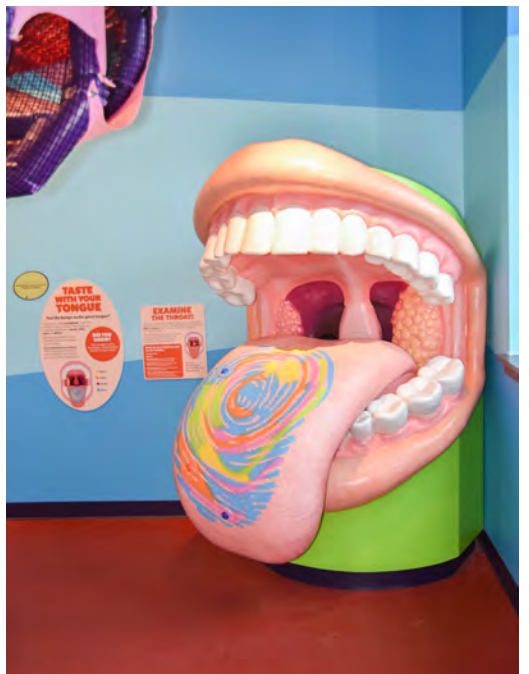
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Meridith, Jim Kate and Caroline Bryans, Greg and Lily Swanson



Jeff, Kelly, Lizzy and Mason Clemence



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Dining in the Dark

The Brandt-Thomas Educational Center held its first official fundraiser on April 20th at the Illini Country Club. The Center was established by Evelyn Brandt-Thomas to provide educational opportunities for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Currently, we conduct computer classes, I-Device Classes, Art Classes, a Braille Class, Career or Volunteer Ready Classes, Daily Living Skill Classes and Orientation & Mobility instruction. To enroll or get more information about our free learning opportunities, call Peggy Dyson, Executive Director at 217-303-9062 or send an email to bcenter@hotmail.com.



Brandt-Thomas Educational Center Board Members. L-R front row: Valerie Ausmus, Emily Cour, Evelyn Brandt-Thomas, Peggy Dyson, Dave Munroe. L-R Back Row: Mary Beth Burke, Jack Schoonover, Phil Brooks, Dan Yuhas, Rosemary Buffington, Sara Wells



Carrie & Doug Skinner, Evelyn Brandt-Thomas, & Ann Charland



Dave Keil, Glen Brandt, Dr. Patrick Butler, Charles Chimento



Mayor Langfelder, Evelyn Brandt-Thomas



Dennis Dyson, Linda Gueldener, Tom Rowden



Pat & Curt Clarida, Evelyn Brandt-Thomas

Jazz in Bloom

The Dana-Thomas House Foundation held their annual summer cocktail benefit in the courtyard of the Dana-Thomas Home on August 18. The “Jazz in Bloom” event featured, the Rob Killiam Quintet, cocktails, fine local fare, and a silent auction benefiting DTHE.



Barb Scharmer, Becky Hays, Julie Doetsch and Stacey Hester



Nick and Regina Albanese, Sheri Glovinsky and Kathy Liesman



Caren Mansfield, Mayor Jim Langfelder, Celeste Pankey



Jackque Eberspacher and Dorothy Dilley



Dan and Sherry Frachey



Lauren Gleason and Heath Bilyeu



Mary Caroline Mitchell and Rachel Johnson



Carrie and Dan Reter



Peggy and Tom Ryder



Gayla and Jay Hornbeek



Lynn and Ken Gilmore



David Mitchell and Mary Caroline Mitchell

Bites on the Boulevard

The first Tuesday of the month from June through October, the MacArthur Boulevard Association hosts “Bites on the Boulevard,” a food truck and vendor fair at 1413 S. MacArthur Boulevard. Proceeds benefit the gentrification and preservation of the Boulevard. The MacArthur Boulevard Association’s mission is to promote and preserve MacArthur Boulevard as an outstanding location to live, shop and work. This event took place on August 7.



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Tennis Elbow		

Donor Appreciation Reception

On August 2, the Simmons Cancer Institute (SCI) hosted their Summer Internship presentations and a Donor Appreciation Reception in the foyer of SCI at SIU School of Medicine on Carpenter St. The research internships were the benefactors of the Denim and Diamonds Gala.



Dr. Aziz Khan and Edgar J. Curtis, CEO and Pres. of MMH



Felicia and Dr. Traves Crabtree and Melissa Hansen



Susan Helm, Angela and Michael Ryan



Julie Davis and Bruce Strom



Dr. Sophia Ran, Cindy Ringer and Dr. Deliang Cao



Madelynn and Jennifer Furkin



Pete and Melinda LaBarre



Cheryl Castles and Debbie Carey

Grand Opening - Bicentennial Plaza

The Illinois Association of Realtors hosted the grand opening of their Bicentennial Plaza, a \$2 million community partnership investment in Springfield's historical downtown area on August 2. With interpretive placards, and a lighted urban structural pergola and brick walkway that paves the Jackson Street corridor. It links the historic site of Abraham Lincoln's home and neighborhood on Seventh Street, with the Executive Mansion on Fifth Street and within walking distance of the state Capitol.



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Jim Donelan, Misty Buscher and Neil Malone



Kelli Jessup and Dana Gurnsey



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Mayor Jim Langfelder, Paul O'Shea, Juan Huerta and Andrew Proctor



Mayor Jim Langfelder, Teri Fahey and Dan Wagner



Sue Massie, Tim Townsend and Mark Johnson



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Screening of "Before, I Do"

The Local Community Film Festival held their monthly showing of short films at the Route 66 Hotel in Springfield on August 23. The festival featured the movie, "Before, I Do," by local filmmaker, writer, director and producer of the Kimberly Conner.



Christine Samoore, Scott Stahlman, Kimberly Conner, Film Producer, Thea Chesley, Siobhan Johnson, Director of Film Festival



Laura Richter and Liz Zalar CIL Film Commission



Ron and Melinda McDonald CIL Film Commission



Delores Martin and Mary Lou Lauchner



Meredith Dumyah and Julie Peart



Christine & Andy Samoore, Cody Rogers

Kimberly Conner

Film Director & Producer

BY JULI PENNELL

Dozens of film enthusiasts gathered at the Route 66 Hotel on August 23 to support and enjoy the monthly Community Film Festival, which featured the work and artistry of local self-published author, film director and producer Kimberly Conner. The festival was the local debut of Conner's third film entitled, "Before, 'I Do.'"

Conner, 47, is an Illinois native and current resident of Springfield. She works and plays here. Though not formally trained in the industry, Conner was inspired to dabble in filmmaking after watching a few festival films herself, thinking, "I can do this." Mostly self-taught, Conner started her own Production Company, Predestined Arts and Entertainment in 2005 and began production of her feature film, entitled "Jump in," which premiered in 2013.

For this film festival, the featured film was her second production, which she produced locally. "Before, 'I Do,'" the movie is the screen adaptation of an award-winning script of the same name. The story is a drama of two African-American Firefighters, filled with scandal, secrets and often light-hearted humor all surrounding the backdrop of the fire service profession, which is the director's nod to these often-unsung heroes. Conner says she, "always wanted to do a storyline about firefighters. It takes a special person to be a firefighter, heading toward danger when others are fleeing."

The City of Springfield and Village of Dawson both contributed to the backdrop, equipment, fire scenes and production of Conner's film. She graciously credits the fire chiefs of both departments for assisting her in securing the right opportunities for her storyline and production timing.



Photo submitted by Kimberly Conner

After the movie, Conner took many questions from moviegoers. Filmmakers Spike Lee and Carl Seaton inspire Conner. Impressed her skill-set to write clever and real dialogue as well as her ability to keep her actors and actresses on schedule to wrap in 12 days so that she could return to work at her real job on time, Conner's craft was intriguing to the festival-fair-goers, who continued to ask follow-up questions. This film premiered in three countries and 12 cities. Kimberly was invited to premiere her film in Cannes (however, not during the famous film festival) and, "it went really well."

Conner graduated with honors from Eastern Illinois University. She is an award-winning finalist for several screenwriting competitions and self-published a book entitled, "Naked Poetics – Poetry, Expressions and Illustrations" in 2006. Her production company, Predestined Arts and Entertainment produced Real Brothers Wear Pink, a calendar of Midwestern males to promote awareness and benefit breast cancer and to honor its survivors, as Conner herself is a two-time survivor, and spokesperson for the cause. Conner went on to write, direct and produce her debut film, "This Life Ain't Pretty," a socially conscious film about HIV/AIDS, which premiered in

December 2009 at the University of Illinois at Springfield campus and was listed as the Top 5 Best Short Films of the year.

Conner says she first began writing several drafts in 1998, but didn't officially start writing for film until 2009. She is currently writing three scripts, two comedies and a thriller. Like she did, Conner suggests to anyone wanting to get into filmmaking, to attend workshops, take classes and read books and to register with the US copyright office to protect your work. Take responsibility for your cast and crew and to trust your crew. Always striving for perfection, Conner says, she's always critiquing her own work by thinking how she could have done this or that differently. And one of her best lessons learned is to identify and establish a relationship with the intended distributor, as the distributor can affect the whole production of a movie.

The local Community Film Festival weekend began in 2002 and is held annually the first weekend in November, with extra showings of unknown filmmakers, which occurs once a month at the Route 66 Hotel.



The Muni 
The 2018 Season



The Cast of Annie sings NYC

BY GUS GORDON

Every year between June and August, the Springfield Municipal Opera presents four full-scale Broadway musicals under the stars at their outdoor stage near Lake Springfield. Hundreds of volunteers and thousands of audience members enjoy “Muni Magic” each summer, making it a central Illinois tradition for over 50 years.

“I think the Muni has been a favorite for so long because families can share in the experience. Whether you are watching a show, ushering, doing concessions, or involved onstage or backstage, it is an organization that can involve the whole family,” said 2018 Muni Board President Michelle Eccles McLaughlin. “Some kids grew up out there, and now their children are involved along with Mom and Dad and the grandparents. It is awesome to see.”

PHOTOS BY DONNA LOUNSBERRY. PHOTOS FROM SISTER ACT BY LEON LINDER.

This past season featured the Muni debuts of the stage adaptations of *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Sister Act* and *Legally Blonde*, all based on popular movies. The fourth show was *Annie*, the beloved musical about the optimistic orphan, making its fourth appearance on the Muni stage.

Little Shop of Horrors was a fun start to the summer and played to appreciative audiences. Plant shop employee Seymour (Kevin Hart) discovers an unusual Venus flytrap during a freak “total eclipse of the sun.” He names the “strange and interesting plant “Audrey II, after his alluring co-worker Audrey (Courtney Wick). Seymour soon learns that not only can Audrey II talk and sing (in the wonderful voice of Kevin Ford), it also has a taste for human blood.



Daddy Warbucks (Gus Gordon) and Annie (Caroline Dahlquist) are Together at Last!



Miss Hannigan (Tiffany Williams), Rooster (Craig Williams II) and Lily (Maddie Booth) are going to Easy Street!

Caroline Dahlquist starred as Annie (alongside Bev as Sandy)

Based on the Roger Corman black-and-white cult classic *Little Shop of Horrors*, the show features the breakout score by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken, who later went on to create *The Little Mermaid* and *Beauty and the Beast* for Disney. The Muni's production of *Little Shop of Horrors* was directed by Laurie Barnes and featured colorful sets by Craig Williams II.

Sister Act, the high voltage musical based on the Whoopi Goldberg film comedy, introduced Springfield audiences to a wonderful new talent, Jasmine French as disco diva Deloris Van Cartier. Like the movie, Deloris witnesses her thug of a boyfriend offing one of his henchmen. The police place her in protective custody in the last place that the mob would look for her: the local convent. Mother Superior (Deb Rudis) is not at all happy about this, but tries to make the best of it by putting Deloris in charge of the dreadful convent choir. Deloris' show biz savvy turns the croaky choir into a *Disco Inferno*! French made an impressive Muni debut, and first-time Muni co-directors Morgan Kaplan and Andrew Maynerich brought the show to life on stage with great energy from a talented cast.

"Directing at the Muni for the first time was really a dream come true for both of us," said Kaplan. "The support that we received from others directors was awesome. It really encouraged us, and made us confident in our abilities to make this show happen!"

Legally Blonde, the musical version of the popular movie that cemented Reese Witherspoon as a star, was the third show of the Muni season. Zoey Zara played Elle Woods, the beautiful California sorority girl who is dumped by her politically ambitious boyfriend Warren (Dalton McGhiey) because she isn't serious enough. Determined to prove him wrong, she follows him to Harvard Law School and proves that there is more to her than meets the eye. Zara gave a star performance, and was supported by some of the best performers in the area. Anna Bussing Maisenbacher directed and choreographed the show and created, with co-choreographer Julie Ratz, many amazing dance numbers.

Muni ended their 2018 season with the family-friendly musical *Annie* directed by Carly Shank. *Annie* is the



FDR (Rich Beans) and his cabinet sing Tomorrow in Muni's production of Annie



Deloris Van Cartier (Jasmine French) with her girls



Sweaty Eddie (Anthony Glover) is sweet on Deloris



The sisters of Sister Act!



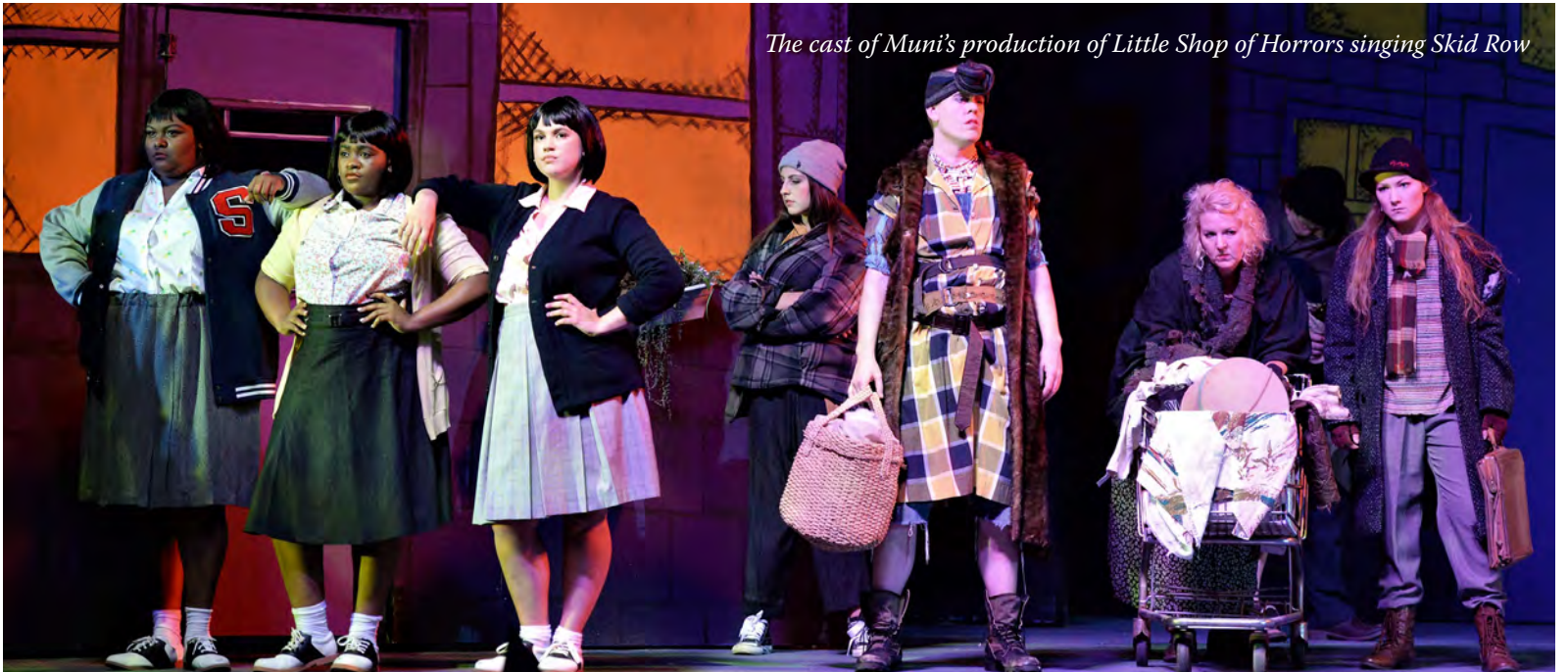
The Disco Nuns!



Mother Superior (Deb Rudis) reprimands Deloris (Jasmine French) for leading the sisters astray



Audrey Two needs Seymour (Kevin Hart) to find him some grub



The cast of Muni's production of Little Shop of Horrors singing Skid Row



Kevin Hart and Courtney Wick starred in Little Shop of Horrors as Seymour and Audrey at Muni in June



Mr. Mushnik (Jim Leach) is about to become lunch for Audrey Two in Little Shop of Horrors

Oh My God, You Guys!



Hope Cherry as fitness guru Brooke Wyndam in Legally Blonde



Jacob Deters as Kyle the UPS Delivery Man



Elle (Zoey Zara) surprises Warner (Dalton McGhiey) and Vivian (Lindsey Rudd) by making it into Harvard in Legally Blonde



story of a plucky little girl who lives in an orphanage run by the cruel Miss Hannigan (Tiffany Williams). Annie (Caroline Dahlquist) is picked to spend Christmas with Billionaire Oliver Warbucks (Gus Gordon), and the two quickly develop such a close bond that Warbucks decides to adopt her. As much as she likes living with Warbucks, his personal secretary Grace Farrell (Kristen Wolfe) and the staff in his mansion, she is convinced her real parents are still out there, and will come back to claim her. With the help of the F.B.I and President Roosevelt, Warbucks sets out to find Annie's real parents, and promises her that "she won't be an orphan for long."

The show starred 13-year-old Caroline Dahlquist as the title character, and although this was her first major Muni lead, she was already a seasoned veteran. "The Muni stage is a really fun place to perform," said Dahlquist. "Since it is so big, you almost feel like you're alone out there, until you see and hear the crowds. They are so amazing."

Many of the young cast members in Annie, like Dahlquist, Mary Donathan, Sydney Williams, Rylee Brinkman, Annelise Warren, Carmen Lecocq and Reese Wolfe, were second generation Muni performers. Caroline's father Jim Dahlquist, for example, played F.D.R. in the 1998 Muni production of Annie. Being a part of the Muni family is something that many central Illinois parents and children have enjoyed sharing together for years. And even if you aren't related by blood or marriage, the Muni experience creates a family atmosphere.

"I know everyone talks about 'Muni Magic,' and that may sound hokey or cliché, but it's a real thing," explained Kaplan. "Yes, it's fun to perform under the stars. Yes, it's fun to pack a picnic and go watch a show under the stars with your significant other. Yes, it's fun to take your child to the Muni for the first time. But the real 'Muni Magic,' to me, is the family that you acquire from being a part of this community."

For more information about the Muni, check out their website at www.themuni.org.



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Elle Woods (Zoey Zara) meets Emmett (Ryan Fisher) in Legally Blonde



INSIDE PHOTOS BY
JAMIE GRAFF
DESIGN EYES PHOTOGRAPHY

OUTSIDE PHOTOS BY
KRISTI MITCHELL
TREEHOUSE TOURS



THE HOME OF JOHN AND JEANETTE MCCARTHY

BY TERRI NOEL

At the south end of Springfield, along a curvy, wooded lane sits the beautiful, lake front home of John and Jeanette McCarthy. The couple purchased the home in August of 2014 and have made extensive, interior design changes over the years to enhance their love for the peaceful and calm living of Lake Springfield. Their brick and vinyl, ranch home has the desirable floor plan that locates the main living areas and master bedroom suite on the main floor.

John and Jeanette are excited for their next steps in their retirement plans. "We're going to miss Springfield and lake living but, we're also excited about finding our new home somewhere along the east coast to be closer to our three children," explained Jeanette.







The sunny entrance to the home opens to the center of activity, the living room, flanked by a stone fireplace with gas-log insert, cathedral ceiling that leads the eye to a wall of windows, and the views of blue skies and rippling lake. An open stairway with wood and iron railing leads guests to the recently updated, full lower-level.



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Those who enjoy cooking and especially self-proclaimed, “chefs,” even more so fall in love with the spacious heart of the home kitchen. Tall, maple hardwood cabinets reach towards the ceiling at various heights and continue into the built-in pantry. An abundance of drawers and lower doors offer maximum storage and in the center of the action is a large island with room for six-plus seating. The kitchen boasts custom window coverings, shades, tiled walls, granite counters and stainless-steel appliances. The space also offers a convenient walk-out to the upper deck.





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The home offers five bedrooms and four and half baths. The oversized master suite is extended with the well-appointed, walk-in closet with ample cabinetry and shelving. The master bath is spa-inspired with both whirl-pool tub, glass and tiled shower and premium cabinetry.





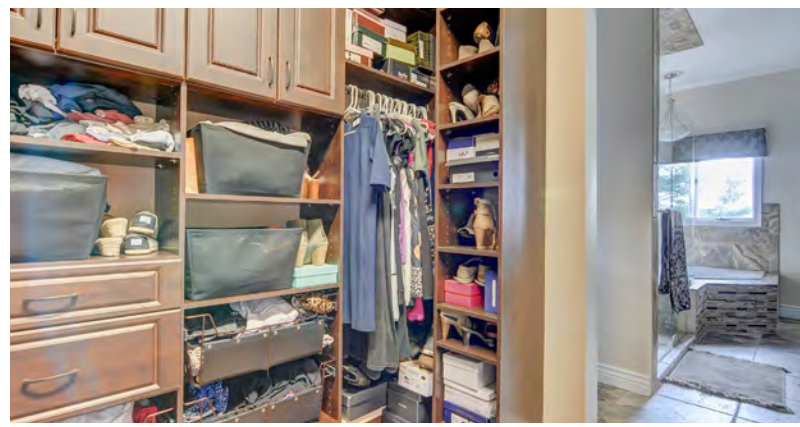
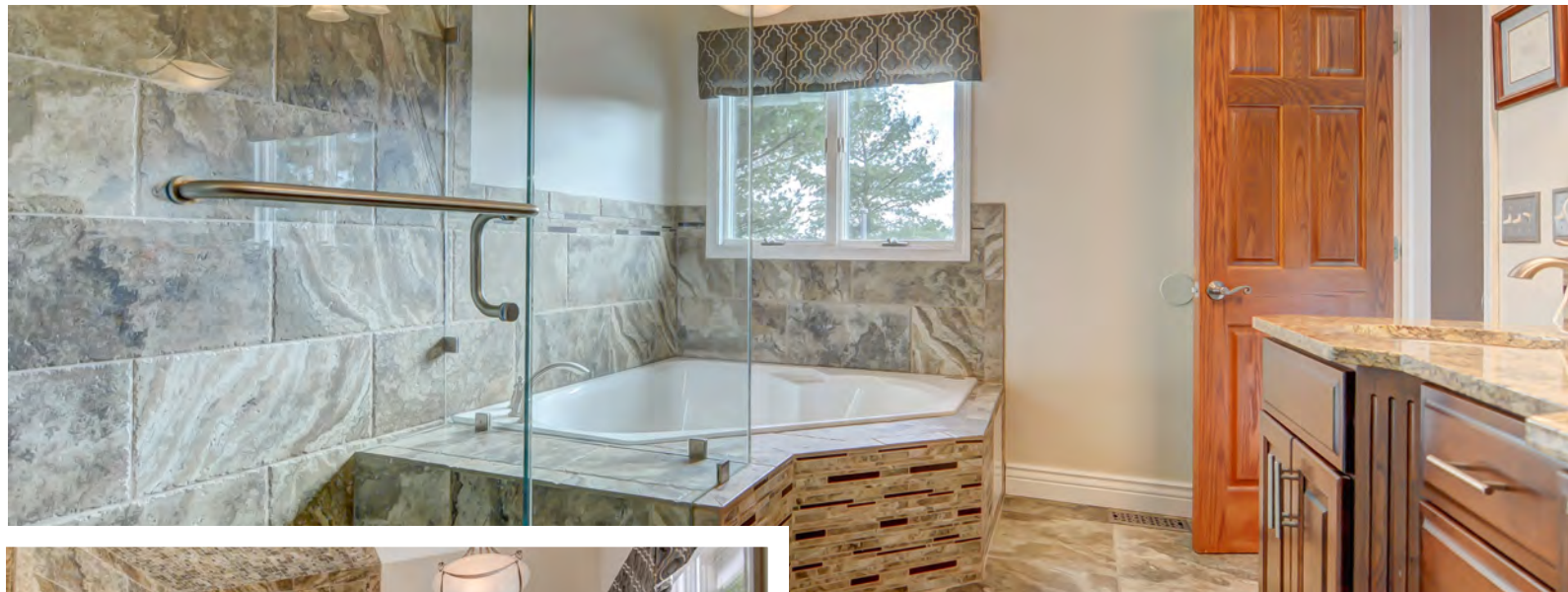
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The walk-out, lower level of the home offers a second, full kitchen that opens to a family room, dining area, a second fireplace, recreational space, two additional bedrooms, bathroom and plenty of storage. Other home statistics: The 5,020 square foot home has more than \$200,000 in recent upgrades in outdoor and lower level amenities. It is in Chatham school district and boasts a pool house with bath and changing area, a three-car garage and built-in, security system.





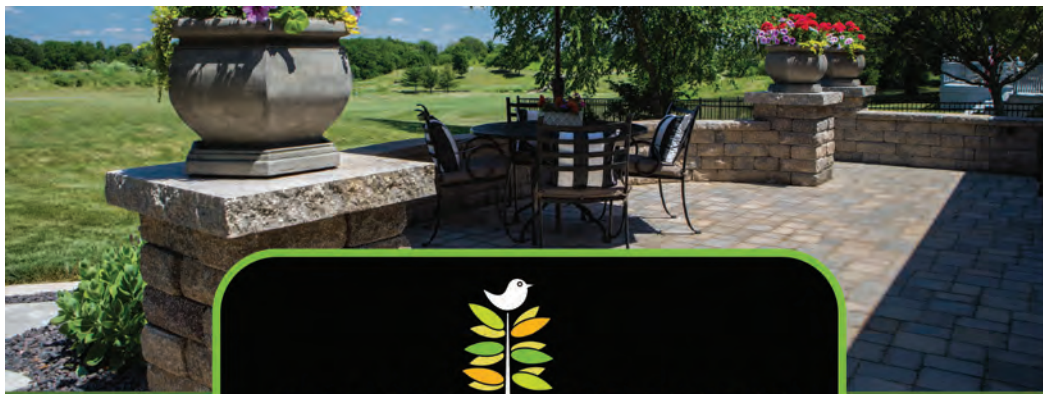
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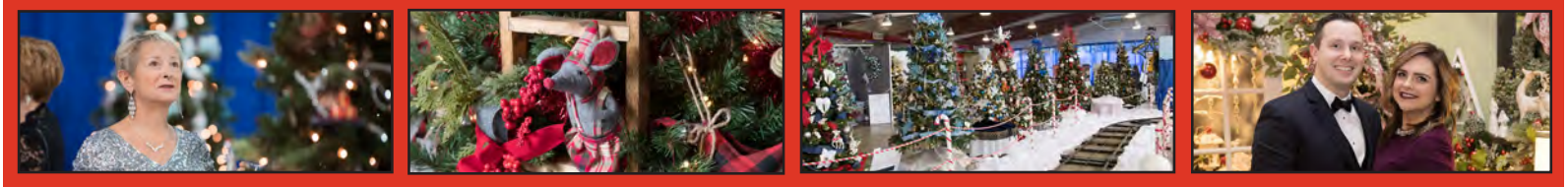


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Memorial's Festival of Trees is an annual event that raises money for health-related projects and programs at Memorial Health System and in the Springfield community. Since 1989, the Festival has raised more than \$4.9 million and with annual attendance of nearly 35,000 people, it has become one of the most popular family-oriented holiday traditions in central Illinois.

This year, Memorial's 2018 Festival of Trees is honored to be an officially endorsed Illinois Bicentennial Event. The theme, "Holidays Through Our History" will pay homage to the Illinois Bicentennial with décor, reenactors and the event's honorary chairperson, Kathryn Harris, a passionate reenactor and historian.

Kathryn is well known throughout Springfield's historical community. In 2015, she retired as the library services director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, formerly the Illinois State Historical Library, after more than 25 years of service. She enjoys presenting one-woman, first-person shows that honor four 19th century African American women: Harriet Tubman, Jarena Lee, Phoebe Florville and Elizabeth Keckley.

"By partnering with the Illinois Bicentennial and welcoming Kathryn Harris into our 'Festival Family,' we are looking forward to providing another memorable event for attendees. We are happy to provide another reason to be Illinois proud," said event manager, Amanda Johnson.

The Festival of Trees offers a series of events to kick-off the holiday season in style:

Memorial's Festival of Trees Gala

Nov. 10 This formal, evening event offers a special first-look at this year's trees, wreaths and holiday décor. Attendees enjoy hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer, live entertainment included with the purchase of a ticket. Special this year--reenactors dressed in themed attire will tour the Orr Building sharing historical knowledge. Period music will be played and sang by local performers.

Memorial's Festival of Trees Paint Night with It's Scrapicated

Nov. 13 The Orr Building opens up for a crafty crew of paint enthusiasts. Attendees can paint exclusive metal designs to decorate their homes, while enjoying a private sneak peek at the holiday designs. Choose from a snow globe (new for 2018), "Pip the Penguin" or the official Festival of Trees logo.

Memorial's Festival of Trees

Nov. 17-25 The nine-day Festival of Trees opens to the public on Nov. 17 and offers something for everyone. More than 200 decorated trees and wreaths fill the room with holiday cheer. Children can share their wish list and have a photo snapped for the memory books. A toy shop will feature fun toys and trinkets. Children can create crafts or glide around on the sock skating rink. Talented instrumental and vocal performers entertains visitors. The Festival opens at 10 a.m. each day, except Thanksgiving Day, which is open from 4-8 p.m.

For additional details, Gala tickets and more, visit:

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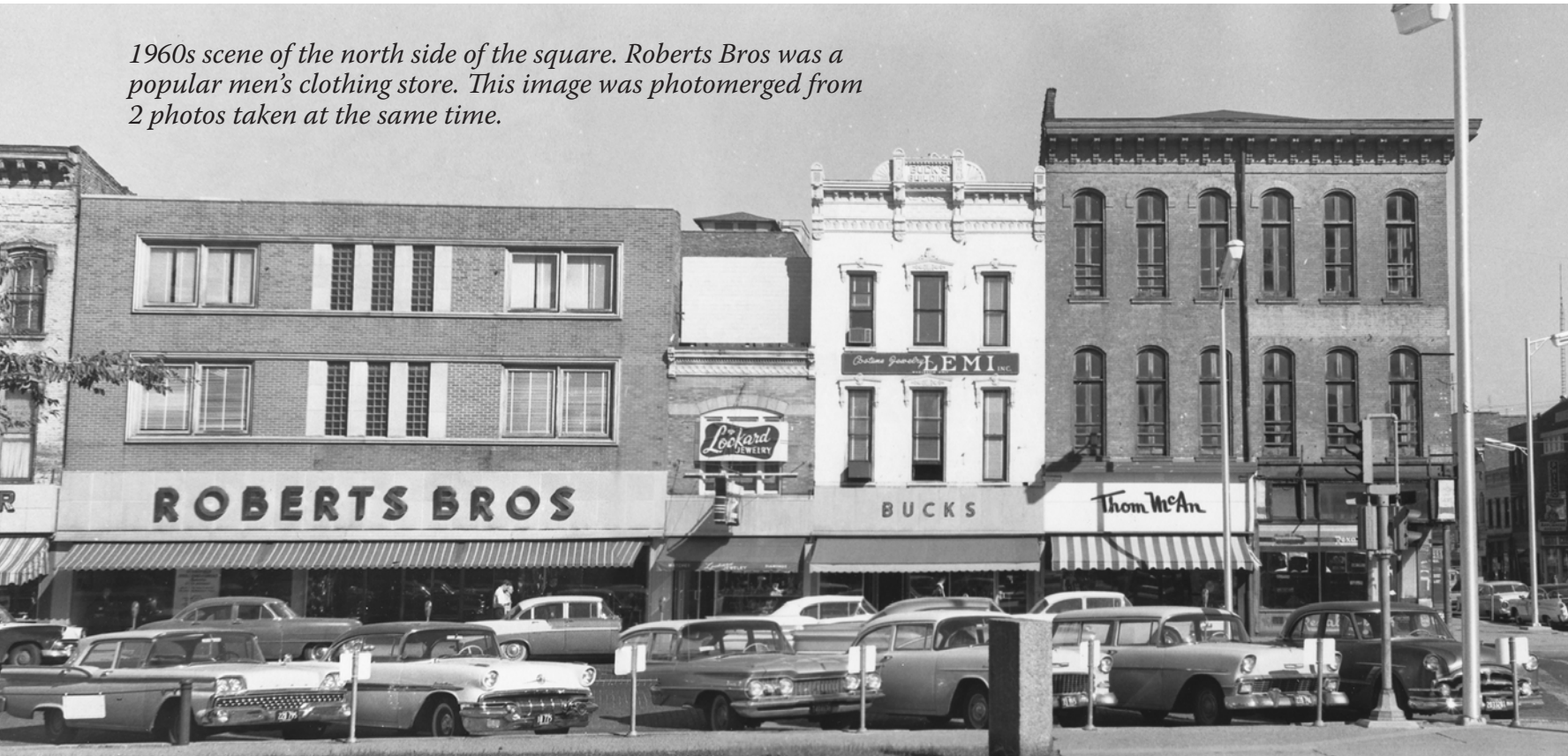
FRIDAY, NOV. 23
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SATURDAY, NOV. 24
10 a.m.-8 p.m.

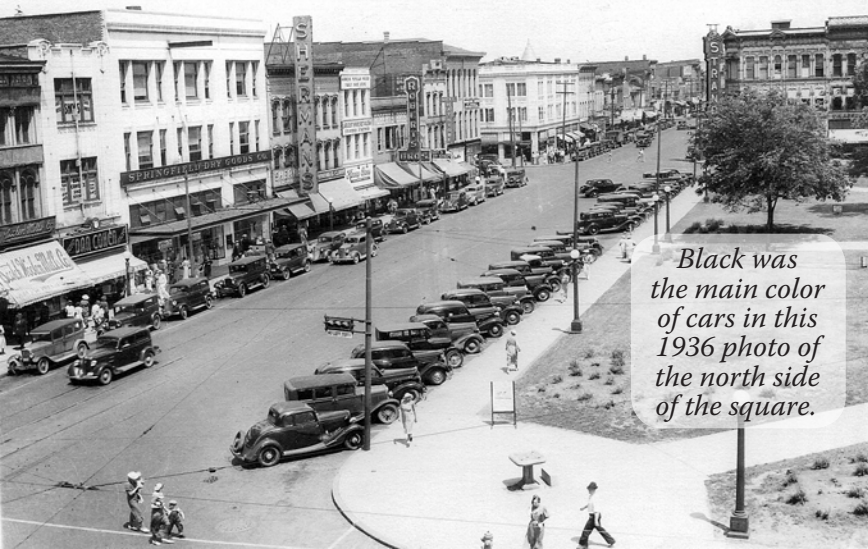
SUNDAY, NOV. 25
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

SPRINGFIELD SCENES FROM OUR PAST

1960s scene of the north side of the square. Roberts Bros was a popular men's clothing store. This image was photomerged from 2 photos taken at the same time.

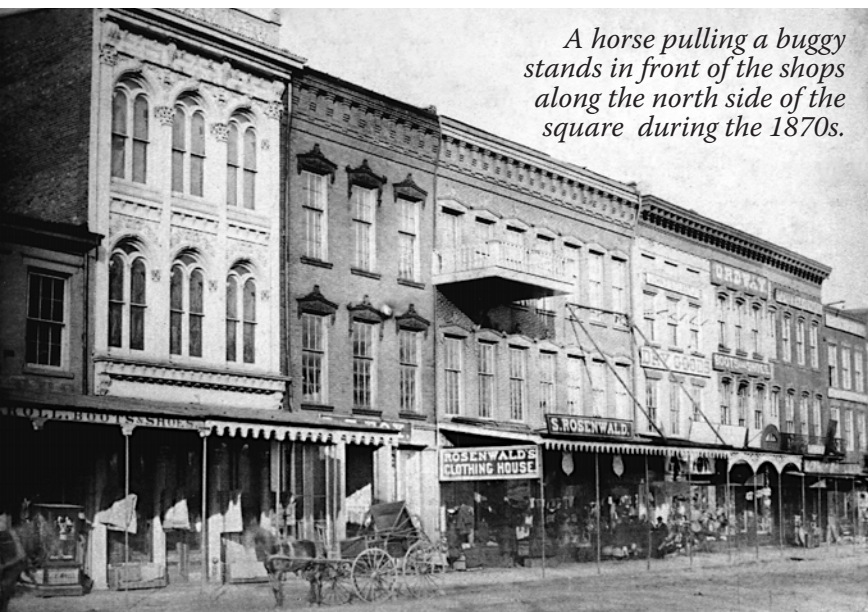


PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SANGAMON VALLEY COLLECTION



Black was the main color of cars in this 1936 photo of the north side of the square.

The Illinois National Bank on the north side of the square at the corner of 5th and Washington - 1950s.



A horse pulling a buggy stands in front of the shops along the north side of the square during the 1870s.



WHEN ACTIVITY LEADS TO ACCIDENT

We're a powerful choice for emergencies

Accidents are unexpected. But when you choose the Memorial Medical Center Emergency Department, you'll always know what to expect. Our emergency and trauma team has the talent and technology to quickly diagnose, treat and get you on the road to recovery. Remember, when emergencies occur, you have the power to choose. **Choose Memorial**—a powerful choice for healthcare.



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