October first marked my seventh year of paid work at the Springfield Area Arts Council. I began as a volunteer with Poetry Out Loud a couple years before, then I was hired by Penny Wollan-Kriel in 2012 to assist with that program and eventually to run it. Soon I was helping with other programs. When Jon Austin left in November 2017, I agreed to become interim executive director. I learned much from both executive directors (Penny and Jon), and I have worked with great volunteers, paid part-time staff, paid interns, and boards of directors throughout these years.

Part of my duties is to compile material for quarterly newsletters (with the able assistance of Mark Pence). I realized that perhaps the best format for letting our valued members know about all the Arts Council is doing on their behalf might be to list our programs and events. Here goes...

...ADULT PROM – In late May, we had our most successful event ever in both attendance and money raised, thanks to the efforts of Kari Bedford, Courtney Wick, and the Prom Court.

...ARTIST ON THE PLAZA – Around Labor Day, we finished another fine season of this weekly concert series, now hosted by the Old State Capitol.

Our performers were (in performance order): Phil Steinberg, Springfield Area Youth Jazz Band, Mark Mills, Monica Hay, Lady Carole and Her Knights, Joe Allen, Messengers for Christ, Route 66 Quartet, Mary Bryant Home Singers, St. Andrew’s Society Dancers, Britney Long, Ryan Mobley, Torch Nation, and Derrick Streibig.

Our sponsors were (in alphabetical order): Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport; The Alamo; Arlington’s; Augie’s Front Burner; The Card*ologist; Development Services Group; Don and Wanda Tracy; Eck, Schafer and Punke; Alderman Joe McMenamin; Myers Commercial Real Estate; Obed and Isaac’s; Old State Capitol; Prairie Archives; Paul W. O’Shea; Richards and Stehman; RSM US LLP; Sangamon Towers; Springfield Downtown Parking; State House Inn; Uptown Looks; Uptown Garages; U. S. Bank; WindSolar USA.

...ARTS IN EDUCATION – Once again, this program is funded through a grant from the Susan Cook House Educational Trust. During the school year, performing and visual artists will be paid to work directly with students and teachers in Sangamon and Menard County schools. This is my second-favorite program because I can accompany the artists to elementary and secondary schools. After almost three decades of teaching, I love being back in classrooms.

Also this year, through a bequest from Bobette Gerlach’s estate, we have contributed to the cost of the glass artist residency at the Springfield Art Association.

...LEVITT (AMPLIFY) MUSIC (PLACE) SPRINGFIELD – This new concert series was produced in partnership with the Springfield Heritage Foundation and funded by the Levitt Foundation. There were 7,766 counted attendees. Your vote helped us secure the grant so we could bring nationally-touring acts to the old YWCA block over ten Thursdays this summer. Lisa Clemons Stott at Downtown Springfield, Inc. has submitted an application for 2020, so we’ll need your support again soon.

2019 Openers (performance order):
Roddrick Lemar, Kaream Williams, Timbre, Jerry Palacios, Jazz Robots, Chel, Frank Parker Ensemble, Kate Laine, Skibbereen, Central Illinois Irish Dancers, St. Andrew’s Society Bagpipers and Dancers, Edward David Anderson

(Music at the Market)

...MUSIC AT THE MARKET – This was an Illinois Times Best of Springfield award winner last year and was nominated this year. Like all our programs, it featured local artists (again in performance order): David Tell, Arlin and Erin, The Dandelion Pickers, Dol Seymour, Dennis Darling, Idle Oath, Liz Fitz, Rhodes and Battles, Hannah Mobeley, Andrew Heathwaite, Last Acre, Adrian Russo, Cowboy Randy, Josie Lowder, Rachel Rambach, Casey Cantrall, Peaches and Bacon,

Larry Stevens, Mike Anderson, Lowder and Manning, Tom Irwin, Jake McNamara, Dan Grover, Eldon Roark, and Troy Roark. This popular concert series is produced in collaboration with Downtown Springfield, Inc. and is funded by HSHS St. John’s as part of the May to October Old Capitol Farmers’ Market.

...ON MY OWN TIME – Rosemary and Rod Buffington have coordinated this program so successfully twice before, and they’re doing it again. The in-house visual arts exhibits are in place now at agencies throughout Springfield; they feature employees’ artworks. The city-wide exhibit will be at the Springfield Art Association gallery at Edwards Place from November 6th through 23rd. You are invited to the awards ceremony and reception on Wednesday, November 6th, at 5:30 P.M.


...POETRY AT THE MARKET – New this year. Through a gift from the Warren Shufeldt estate, we selected classic and contemporary poetry to display on signboards at the Old Capitol Farmers’ Market. Its goal is to spread the enjoyment of poetry. This is one of my favorites.

He jump-starts my frozen pick-up; I feed his snow-bound stock.
We hate each other’s votes, but in the spring, we mend fences anyway.
(Laurie Sain)

...POETRY OUT LOUD – I’ll admit it; this is my favorite program. I used the curriculum when I taught speech and theatre, and I’ve served as recitation judge, accuracy judge, and prompter for this poetry recitation competition. In the spring, the Illinois state champion, Scottlynn Ballard of Edwardsville High School, placed second in the national meet. She is competing again this year. Can she improve her score, or might someone from central Illinois compete in D.C. this season? Come to these contests to find out.

Continued on Page 3
Central Illinois Regional Contest:
Thursday, February 13th; 4:00 P.M.
Illinois State Contest: Monday, March 2nd; 10:00 A.M.
Both are at the Hoogland Center for the Arts and are free and open to the public.

**SIX STRINGS / SIX WEEKS** – These guitar lessons for adults, taught by a local singer/songwriter, will be offered again in January and February. Check our website in early winter to learn more.

**SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN THE ARTS** – You read about our interns, Rachel Evers and Amanda Wayman, in the summer newsletter. They are both now in college, studying art. They helped so much with several of our programs, and I enjoyed having them in the office. Rachel and Amanda were paid through a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency. I hope you met them.

**UPTOWN FRIDAY NIGHT** – It has felt a little strange not to be running a 50/50 raffle on Friday evenings at Robbie’s. As you likely know, our venue suffered water damage in early summer when the roof of the building next door collapsed. The restaurant will open in November. It will be good to see the “regulars” again and to meet “newcomers.” Do come to hear great jazz and blues.

I do none of this work alone, so please join me in thanking Erica Beeman (bookkeeper), Carey Smith (Poetry Out Loud program assistant), and Emily Page (website content manager). On a personal note, I lovingly acknowledge my husband, Doug Kamholz, for his constant support.

The Arts Council has a hard-working board of directors, too, and I enjoy meeting with them on the second Thursday of each month.

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Stephen Shields, Treasurer
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Courtney Wick, Past President
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Our annual audit will take place next month, and I’m happy to report that we’re in better financial shape, although we haven’t quite recovered from the state budget crisis. May I ask you now to respond with a donation when we send our end-of-year request for general operating funds? You’ll be getting the appeal in December.

I truly appreciate all of you who have renewed your membership this year! Please spread the word about everything we do to enrich the community through the arts.

Now, take a moment to look at our Facebook page and give it a ‘like.’ Thanks!

Interns at the Springfield Area Arts Council designed this graphic as their signature project to raise a bit of money for SAAC. You can purchase the shirt for $20 by contacting the SAAC office (email to office@springfieldartsco.org or call 217-753-3519) or at the First Night Springfield silent auction in the Hoogland Center for the Arts lobby.

**UPTOWN FRIDAY NIGHT**

After a 5-month renovation made necessary by flooding at Robbie’s, Arch Bailey is re-opening the restaurant! He expects to be able to host Uptown Friday Night, the Arts Council’s free performance series, starting on November 1. As before, the music will run from 5:30 to 7:30 on Friday evenings. Join us at Robbie’s Restaurant on Old State Capitol Plaza South and start the weekend with outstanding jazz and blues, excellent food and drinks, and great company – all while supporting the Springfield Area Arts Council.

**NOVEMBER**

1 Michael Burnett and the Blue Suns
8 Stuart Smith Quintet
15 Craig Russo’s Latin Jazz Project
22 Baaad Boyz
29 CLOSED

**DECEMBER**

6 Best of Both Worlds
13 Stone Cold Blues Band
20 Chris Camp and His Blues Ambassadors
27 CLOSED

**SAAC Mission**

The Springfield Area Arts Council enriches the community by promoting and supporting all art forms and providing creative opportunities to participate in and enjoy the arts.
This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

Accolades for the Arts

Accolades for the Arts is published by the Springfield Area Arts Council. Your comments are welcome. Call the Arts Council office at (217) 753-3519.

“The arts are an essential element of education, just like reading, writing, and arithmetic...music, dance, painting, and theater are all keys that unlock profound human understanding and accomplishment.”

William Bennett, Former US Secretary of Education
SAAC Supporters

The Board of Directors extends its deepest gratitude for the continued support of our membership, friends, corporate and foundation partners, as well as local and state government.

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