

ACCOLADES

For The Arts

Springfield Area Arts Council

Summer 2022

Meet the Interns

Jillian

When my A.P. language and composition teacher, Brent Judd, e-mailed me about an internship for the Springfield Area Arts Council, I could barely keep in my excitement. I had previously gotten a glimpse of the hard work and passion the Springfield Area Arts Council puts into bringing the arts to this city when I competed at the Illinois Poetry Out Loud regional competition. There, I saw the Springfield Area Arts Council as an organization that has a true love for all the arts. As an intern, I hope to convey that same love for the arts in everything I do. At Sacred Heart Griffin High School, where I am going into my senior year, I have always participated in the arts whenever there was an opportunity. From taking art classes, to performing in the school musical, school has become a place where I can grow in the arts. However, my love for the arts did not start when I entered high school. It started way earlier, when I was only nine years old and enrolled in the Hoogland Education Arts Program. For the past eight years, I was part of this wonderful program, which, under the direction of Dr. Matthew Vala, put on multiple musicals and plays a year. The Hoogland Education Program inspired me to always do my best and to do good things in the world. The reason why I love the arts so much is that it allows for so much freedom and expression. No matter the medium, the arts allow people to tell their stories, convey their feelings, and say whatever they want to say with no restrictions and no boundaries. This internship has provided me with so many opportunities to see artists bring joy and just be themselves. The memories I have of watching these artists do what they love will be



Photo by Paul O' Shea

Ava

In February, my National Honor Society advisor and English teacher, Anne Bishoff, told me about a volunteer position at the regional Poetry Out Loud competition. I love listening to poetry, so I thought this was a great opportunity. A fellow classmate and I went and had a blast. Afterwards, Sheila Walk (executive director) told us about the internship that would be available during the summer. After many e-mails and an interview with Sheila, she called me and told me I got the job! I was so excited to have a job that was not only fun but also something that I enjoyed and was passionate about.

My name is Ava Jacobs. I am going to be a senior at Athens High School this coming school year, and I intend to apply for admission to the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. I started playing the saxophone in fifth grade. Little did I know at the time, but this choice would change my life in the best way. Since then, music has been the leading part of my life. I have been in my school's bands for eight years. During my junior year, I became the drum major for our marching band. I play saxophone for my school's concert band, jazz band, and pep band and for Lincoln Community High School Orchestra. I also compete on the piano for the Springfield Federation of Music Clubs, so my passion for music continues all year round. At the Springfield Area Arts Council, I get the amazing opportunity to help host the Levitt AMP Concerts, Artist on the Plaza, and Friday Night Jazz. All these events help bring people together for the soul purpose of enjoying music together. My favorite

Meet the Interns continued

with me forever. Getting to interact and work with local performers, volunteers, and audience members as a part of this internship, and helping set up and produce events such as Levitt AMP Springfield, Artist on the Plaza, and Friday Night Jazz have given me a gateway to a whole world of artistic talent right here in Springfield.

of the three is Friday Night Jazz, where I am able to listen to jazz musicians perform every week. It makes me so delighted to see people enjoy music like this. I am continuously inspired by the music I hear and the people I meet at every event. It brings me hope that I can continue playing music throughout my life just like these performers.

Poetry Out Loud 2022

The Show Goes On!

Central Illinois Regional Contest

By Carey Smith

“Safe and welcoming” was the theme of the 2022 contest for Illinois’s central region, hosted by the Springfield Area Arts Council on February 10, 2022. With the health and well-being of students, teachers, parents, and staff at the forefront, the regional contest held at the Hoogland Center for the Arts was a less formal and smaller affair, though performances remained vibrant and well-prepared.

Small tables dotted the theatre floor, each reserved for a student, a teacher, and a parent or two. Judges each sat at his or her own table, widely spaced, as did the scorekeeper. No poetry fans were invited this year. There was neither an emcee nor a musician nor a photographer. But despite pandemic safety protocols, students cheered one another’s performances with the same camaraderie as always and enjoyed the first in-person Poetry Out Loud performance in Illinois since the state contest was held in March 2020.

The first- and second-place winners were both from Franklin High School, coached by teacher Elise Black. Thaddeus Bergschneider took championship honors with his recitations of “I Eat Breakfast to Begin the Day” by Zubair Ahmed and “I Am Offering This Poem” by Jimmy Santiago Baca. Runner-up Cole Delaney recited “Not Horses” by Natalie Shapero and “The Day” by Geoffrey Brock. Jackson Vogel of Eureka High School placed third.



Cole Delaney



Thaddeus Bergschneider

Also reciting were Dallis Anderson from Springfield High School; Josephine Brunner from Lutheran High School (Springfield); Jillian Herter and Gracie Reeder, both from Sacred Heart-Griffin High School (Springfield); Emma Ingersoll from Eureka High School; and Elizabeth Palagi and Jazmyn Schnetzler, both from Eisenhower High School (Decatur).

The recitation judges were Anne Bishoff (English teacher, Athens), Matt Schwartz (literature professor, Jacksonville), and Shatriya Smith (poet, Springfield). Accuracy judge was Thèa Chesley; Bob Jessup was scorekeeper, and prompter was June Russell. The Arts Council’s executive director Sheila Walk served as the informal emcee, bookkeeper Sarah Burke was the scorekeeper’s assistant, and Carey Smith was the program assistant. The Hoogland’s Daniel Hecht was the technician, while David Cain of U-Media was the videographer. Student volunteers from Athens, Ava Jacobs and Will Armitage, served as announcer and usher, respectively.

Illinois State Contest

By Doug Kamholz

There is rhyme and reason in Poetry Out Loud's state winners for 2022. The Illinois champion, from tiny Franklin High School, competed for a \$20,000 national prize in this popular recitation contest.

"I can't believe it. I won!" was champion Cole Delaney's immediate response when the Springfield Area Arts Council announced his name at the top of 17 regional finalists.

Last September, 28 Illinois high schools and 127 teachers began their participation in Poetry Out Loud. Statewide, 4,597 students competed in eight regions. Winners there entered the state contest in March, conducted virtually because of the lingering pandemic.

A panel of language-expert judges viewed videos in which each student recited three poems chosen from several hundred approved possibilities, some classic and some modern. Naomi Kelly from Wheaton Warrenville South High School placed second, and another student from Franklin, Thaddeus Bergschneider, was third.

"They broke my heart with their sincerity," recalled judge Mark Turcotte, himself a poet. Other judges were Joshua Kryah, professor of English, Morgan Minsk, a former Illinois Poetry Out Loud national finalist, and Demetrice A. Worley, also a professor of English. Springfield poet and librarian Théa Chesley checked recitation accuracy and mainframe programmer Bob Jessup handled computer scorekeeping. Technician David Cain managed the recorded entries.

To win the competition, Delaney recited "The Day" by Geoffrey Brock; "Fate" by Carolyn Wells; and "Not Horses" by Natalie Shapero. He advanced to April's national competition, this year again staged virtually.

The Illinois contest featured recitations by winning students from each of eight state regions: Central, Chicago-City, Chicago-Metro, Eastern, Northern, South-central, Southern, and Western.

Here are names and schools of those regional winners:

Audrey Brumley (Carbondale High School)

Grace Casey (Freeburg Community High School)

Lauren Dobbels (Orion High School)

Kelcey Dodd (Jefferson High School, Rockford)

Rebecca Drake (Massac County High School)

Olivia Goodley (Annawan High School)

Veda Kommineni (Edwardsville High School)

Skylar Lim (Taft High School, Chicago)

Jocelyn Lin (Carbondale High School)

Keaton Meier (Hersey High School, Arlington Heights)

Ariana Mizan (University Laboratory High School, Urbana)

Mabolanle Salawu (Mather High School, Chicago)

Wade Schacht (Champaign Central High School)



Poetry Out Loud 2022 continued

The contest coordinator was Sheila Walk, executive director of the Springfield Area Arts Council, assisted by local writer Carey Smith. State program manager was Susan Dickson of the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

Poetry Ourselves

By Sheila Walk

The Arts Council launched a new component of Poetry Out Loud this year: Poetry Ourselves. This optional program invited regional winners and runners-up to submit their own original written poetry. One poem per person could be submitted, in any style. Poems were judged by regional contest organizers. Poetry Ourselves became part of the national program a few years ago, with a few states starting their own programs.

Naomi Kelly (Wheaton Warrenville South High School) took first place. Thaddeus Bergschneider (Franklin High School) placed second. Each received a specially-designed trophy. Here are their winning poems.



Naomi Kelly



The Places You´ll Go!

By Naomi Kelly

I asked my mother where we would go when we die.
just a child, I was already so curious
I believed we simply become free
falling away from our terms and conditions.

just a child, I was already so curious
as I watched the world paint a picture
falling away from our terms and conditions
a mutilated image of the world within whimsical story
books

as I watched the world paint a picture
I grew older and more observant.
a mutilated image of the world within whimsical story
books

I witnessed humanity grapple against itself.

I grew older and more observant.
I was warned of the risks posed against me,
I witnessed humanity grapple against itself,
I witnessed the innocent pay the price.

I was warned of the risks posed against me
the risks of breaking our human terms and conditions-
I witnessed the innocent pay the price
in a misconstrued culture created to keep select
individuals down

the risks of breaking our human terms and conditions...
an example? Heaven and Hell.
in a misconstrued culture created to keep select
individuals down
I pondered possible conclusions to these occurrences.

an example? Heaven and Hell.
simply something to escape this cycle
I pondered possible conclusions to these occurrences
a peaceful end to a world without peace

simply something to escape this cycle
I believe we become free.
a peaceful end to a world without peace, so,
I asked my mother where we would go when we die.

Poetry Out Loud 2022

continued

Arm the Children

By Thaddeus Bergschneider

we read them stories of knights and kings
adventurers who conquer evil
and heroes who always do the right thing

we tell them legends of witches and sorcerers
dragons defeated with swords and spells,
armor and magic apples

we fill their imaginations

and lie all the way

when they grow up, we will tell them it was all fantasy,
that conquest is no longer needed, only a past necessity
the dragons were fake
the weapons used to defeat them were lies

they soon find out

dragons are not real— evil is human
the dungeons were fake— people are enslaved
creatures hate appearance – this time color

against our worst enemies they walk empty handed

ARM THE CHILDREN!

give them hope!
drive us
out of complacency and into battle
give them words!
a voice
which prompts others to make a choice

give them imagination!
deflect discouraging attacks
keep dreams intact

give them perseverance!
time after time, the body survives
if the soul continues to strive

and give them love.
which knows
that the only loss
is to not fight at all

Legacy Program

Penny Wollan-Kriel served the Arts Council for seventeen years. Upon her retirement, the board of directors re-named a long-time program in her honor. Arts in Education became Penny Wollan-Kriel

Arts in Education, and it continues to serve its original purpose: to help Sangamon and Menard County public and private schools bring the arts to their students.

A grant was secured from the Susan Cook House Educational Trust to allow the Arts Council to fund these projects in these schools in 2021-2022.

Ball Charter Elementary – Vocal session with professional voice coach

Cantrall Intermediate – Purchase of die cuts for use in art classes

Enos Elementary – Performance by magician for school assembly

Laketown Elementary – Production of a Black History play

Springfield High – Choreography session with professional choreographer

Tri-City Junior High – Admission to VanGogh immersive art exhibit

The purpose of arts education is not to produce more artists, though that is a byproduct. The real purpose of arts education is to create complete human beings capable of leading successful and productive lives in a free society.
Dana Gioia

Put Your Love for the Arts into Action

The Arts Council has openings for new board members as it marks its 46th year of service to Sangamon and Menard counties. If you want to help enrich the community through the arts, then please contact Sheila Walk at 217-753-3519 or office@springfieldartsco.org.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR BOARD MEMBERS!



Lively Listening

By Ava Jacobs

With its third season in full swing, the Levitt AMP Springfield Music Series is a free, diverse, and accessible concert series that welcomes all. There is a concert every Thursday night from June 2nd through August 4th from 6:00 to 8:30 P.M. on the North Mansion Block.

Musicians play everything from rock music to Bollywood fusion to zydeco. With an opener, a dance intermission, and a headliner, these concerts have audiences up on their feet. There is food and drink available on the Levitt lawn at Fourth and Jackson Streets from various vendors, and local makers sell their wares.

The series' purpose is to bring people together through free live music and to enliven an under-used public space. The Levitt AMP Series is made possible by the Mortimer and Mimi Levitt Foundation, an organization that distributes grants to cities around the country.

All the Levitt AMP concerts are family-friendly, accessible, and free for all to enjoy.

LEVITT AMP CONCERT SCHEDULE

June

- 2 - Soul Message Band - Jazz
- 9 - The Heavy Hours - Rock
- 16 - Natu Camara - Afro-rock
- 23 - Postponed until August 3
- 30 - Charanga Tropical - Latin

July

- 7 - Terrance Simien and the Zydeco Experience - Zydeco
- 14 - Orchestra Saregama - Bollywood Fusion
- 21 - The Sheryl Youngblood Band - Blues
- 28 - Arlo McKinley - Country

August

- 3 - Davina and the Vagabonds - Jazz Funk
- 4 - Harlem Gospel Travelers - Gospel



Photo by Zach Adams

Perfect Performances on the Plaza

By Jillian Herter

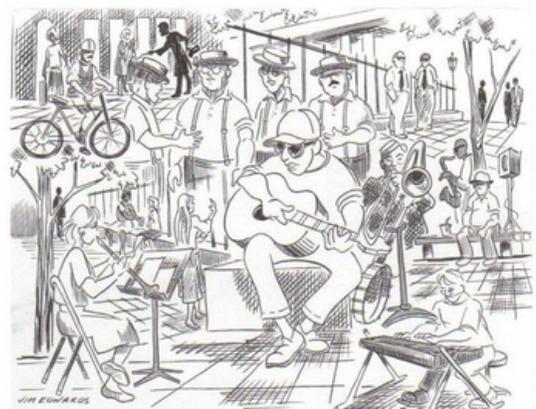
For the past thirty years, Springfield Area Arts Council has produced Artist on the Plaza, a live, outdoor performance series featuring local musicians and artists to generate a deeper appreciation of the arts in Springfield. This summer, Artist on the Plaza is back every Friday during the noon hour, bringing with it a diverse array of sounds! From bluegrass to gospel, and even the songs of Frank Sinatra, this concert series features a wonderful display of talent found right here in Springfield!

Artist on the Plaza is held on the south lawn of the Old State Capitol and has plenty of nearby shade for protection against the summer heat. Sit down, relax, and listen to some great tunes. There is no admission charge. The concert is held every Friday from June 3 through September 2.

Artist on the Plaza is sponsored this season by Visit Springfield. There's no better way to enjoy the sounds and sights of downtown Springfield than with Artist on the Plaza!

ARTIST ON THE PLAZA SCHEDULE

- June 3- Tom Irwin - singer/songwriter, folk
- June 10- Dennis Darling - familiar tunes
- June 17- Springfield Dance - routines from young dancers
- June 24- Phil Steinberg - the songs of Sinatra
- July 1 - Mike Anderson - dulcimer-playing and story-telling
- July 15 - Micah Walk - singer/songwriter, Americana
- July 22 - Sangomo Town - bluegrass
- July 29 - Casey Cantrall - guitar and vocal
- August 5 - Peaches and Bacon - fiddle and banjo
- August 12 - Messengers for Christ - gospel music
- August 19 - Amy Benton - singer/songwriter, country
- August 26 - Route 66 Quartet - barbershop quartet
- September 2 - Monica Hay - vocalist



Mayor's Award for the Arts Announced

Recipients of the 21st Mayor's Awards for the Arts were announced at a ceremony held at the Hoogland Center for the Arts on Monday evening, May 2, 2022.

Sponsored by the Springfield Area Arts Council and Mayor James O. Langfelder, the Mayor's Awards for the Arts recognize outstanding talent in and dedication to the arts in Sangamon and Menard counties. The award for each recipient was a signed landscape photograph by Rich Saal.

Award recipients for 2022 were
Special Recognition: Fletcher (Bud) Farrar, Jr.

Literary Artist: Shatriya Smith

Performing Artist: Kathryn Harris

Visual Artist: Tracey Maras

Arts Educator: Matthew Vala

Arts Student: Cooper Coker

Arts Volunteer: Jean Follin

Arts Organization: Menard County Singers

Business Supportive of the Arts: Whimsy Tea Company



Brian Choban Jazz Quintet

The Best Bops Are at Boone's

By Ava Jacobs and
Jillian Herter

For decades, Friday Night Jazz was known by another name, Uptown Friday Night. After Robbie's Restaurant closed due to the retirement of its owner Archer Bailey, the Springfield Area Arts Council had to find a new venue with which to partner with. Bands now perform at another local restaurant, Boone's.

Every Friday night from 5:30 to 7:30, you can enjoy jazz music all year round at 301 West Edwards Street. SAAC organizes these nights and holds a 50/50 raffle. There is no fee to watch the show, but food and beverages are available to purchase.

Showcasing the diversity of jazz, every concert is different and all are welcome.

FRIDAY NIGHT JAZZ SCHEDULE

June

- 3 - Professional Development
- 10 - Julie Jules and Co.
- 17 - Johnnie Owens and Friends
- 24 - Brian Choban Jazz Quintet

July

- 1 - Colin Heshmat and Standard Ground
- 15 - Jonnie Concaroo Band
- 22 - Frank Trompeter Quartet
- 29 - Capital City Big Band

August

- 5 - Max Beckman Trio
- 12 - Victoria Capo
- 19 - Kurt Reeder Organ Trio
- 26 - Aaron Becker



Award winners, Photo by Jeremy Bailey

First Night® Springfield

We were all set to celebrate the arts on New Year's Eve in 2021 – our 35th time.

Talented performers were under contract. Local non-profit organizations were coming in to offer crafts for children to make. Fireworks were ready to launch. Our host venues, Hoogland Center for the Arts and First Presbyterian Church, were polished and ready.

Then the omicron variant of COVID-19 came to Springfield.

To protect our audiences and our performers, the Arts Council board officers decided it best to cancel our annual event. It was the right decision, of course, but we are missing the revenue this fund-raiser brings us. Yes, our signature event helps us pay the rent throughout the year. So we need to make up for that this year. The board already is planning First Night Springfield 35.1! Please reserve December 31st on your calendar.

Because of these sponsors, we were able to give partial stipends to the performers we had contracted to play last year. We remain grateful.

Bank of Springfield	Cheryl and Mark Pence
Douglas Kamholz	Steve and Libby Rambach
Penny Wollan-Kriel	Steve, Kristin, and Marley Myers
Phoenix Collision	Sheila Walk



Mission Statement

Enriching the community by promoting all art forms and providing creative opportunities to participate in and enjoy the arts.



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