

ACCOLADES

For The Arts

Springfield Area Arts Council

April 2016

Adult Prom "PROMHIBITION" is May 21

Join your friends on Saturday evening, May 21, for *PROMHIBITION – Roaring 20s Adult Prom*, hosted by the Springfield Area Arts Council. This year's not-to-be-missed event opens at 7:00 p.m., upstairs at Arlington's, 210 Broadway, in Downtown Springfield. The party ends at 11:00 p.m. This fourth annual event created for adults 21 and over raises funds for the Arts Council, and those funds and your support stay in the community and allow us to offer many performing arts programs in Sangamon and Menard counties throughout the year.

Did you miss your high school prom years ago? Do you regret lacking the courage to ask that "special someone"? No worries! Will you go to the prom with us this year? Flapper dresses and zoot suits are encouraged as we re-create the era. Otherwise, semi-formal to formal attire is suggested. After all, reigning queen and event chair Courtney Wick runs a respectable joint!

Visit the event site on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1581863415466049>.

A cash bar will be open and food may be ordered from the restaurant downstairs. We'll have a photo booth to help create memories of your special evening. Music for dancing will be provided by the DJ Kurt Williams.

No prom would be complete without the Prom Court, and we describe the candidate couples below. Whether you attend or not, we urge you to vote for your favorite couple or couples by going to our website at www.springfieldartsco.org and donating to the Springfield Area Arts Council in their name. The couple with the most pledges will be crowned that evening.

As a thank-you to our current supporters, once again, the Board would like to offer two complimentary tickets to those who donate to the Arts Council at an annual level of \$100 or above. Their critically important and much appreciated funds support our work throughout the year. For others, tickets

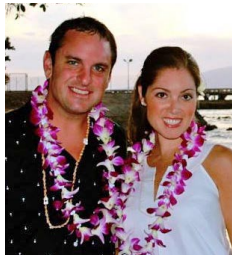
are available at only \$25 per person or \$45 per couple. Tickets may be claimed or reservations may be made by phoning the Arts Council office during regular business hours at 753-3519.

Prom Court Candidates

Zach and Rachel Rambach are Springfield natives. Their romance began in the 6th grade, but unfortunately was short-lived the first time around. They rekindled the flame 10 years later while still in college. After graduating from Illinois State University, Zach went on to become an insurance agent for AAA, and just recently opened The Rambach Insurance Agency. Rachel completed her masters degree in music therapy at Illinois State University, and is the founder and co-owner of Music Therapy Connections.

Zach and Rachel married in 2008. Rachel has been heavily involved in the local arts scene since elementary school, performing frequently in Springfield Area Arts Council events. Zach is an avid soccer player and president of Rachel's fan club. They would both like to see the arts continue to flourish here in Springfield for the next generation, including their two children: Parker (2) and Mia (9 months).

Wade Ebert is a real estate broker for The Real Estate Group in Springfield. **Mandy Saia** is the librarian for Springfield Ball Charter School. Mandy is an amateur photographer and former curator of Third Thursday Art Show (2010-2012). She also has been a juried

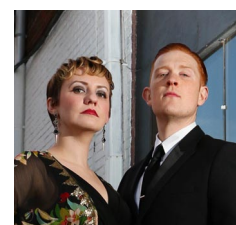


member of the Prairie Art Alliance, taught arts and humanities classes at the YMCA, and has participated in several shows at the Springfield Art Association.

Wade is a long-time patron of the local arts and music scene in Springfield, and actually met Mandy at a Third Thursday art show when he was buying a painting from a local artist. Before entering real estate, Wade owned and operated an auto body business in Springfield, and so has experienced firsthand the value and importance of supporting local business endeavors.

Both Mandy and Wade believe that art and music organizations such as PAA, SAA, The Pharmacy, The Studio, and Black Sheep Café (just to name a few) are what set Springfield apart and make it a unique and culturally diverse town. Just about every night in Springfield, and certainly every weekend, there is a variety of art shows, bands, plays, paint nights, and countless other events to satisfy those hungry for culture and creativity. None of this would be possible if it weren't for people donating time, money, and resources to support the local arts scene. Currently, many of the creative endeavors here in Springfield are run by volunteers who are passionate about making this community more diverse. In order to keep these events alive, and to help new artists and musicians emerge, funding has to be present. Springfield is already famous for its historical significance. Let's create a community that's famous for its artistic significance as well!

Drew Thomason and Jamey Dunn-



Thomason met in Springfield in grad school at the University of Illinois Springfield. There they fell madly in love just one week before graduating. He moved to Kentucky.

Continued on Page 2

Adult Prom Court *(Continued from Page 1)*

She moved back to her hometown of Mattoon, Illinois. Weekends together were too short, and the six-hour drive might have ended other relationships. But love born in Springfield is tough. Eventually the metropolis on the prairie worked its magic and brought Drew and Jamey together. The two were married in 2011 and have called Springfield home ever since.

This summer they will celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary; wouldn't it be great to have the couple go into it as Adult Prom king and queen? Yes. Yes, it would, but don't vote just because of that. Vote because your money goes to an organization that helps the arts thrive in Springfield. How did Drew woo Jamey early on? His trumpet skills, of course, which he learned in public school band. What helped formerly shy Jamey come out of her shell and eventually become a journalist? Her experience acting in community theatre, which began with a high school play. Want more Drews wooing more Jameys with trumpets (or trombones or saxophones)? Want more young people learning life skills and gaining confidence through the arts? Then vote!

Did you know that the Springfield Area Arts Council supports the visual and performing arts in schools throughout Sangamon and Menard counties? You do now! Vote! And be sure to come to the 20s-themed adult prom at Arlington's in May for a roaring good time.

Did you hear the one about the birthday party that ended up being a wedding?



Well, that's **Ryan and Lisa Cannon's** story. It's a classic tale of boy meets girl, girl is diagnosed with stage IV cancer, boy asks girl to marry him,

and in a month's time they plan their surprise wedding at the girl's 30th birthday party. They've been battling the cancer together ever since. Sounds a bit like a Hallmark movie, don't you think? So why are these crazy kids on the court this year for adult prom? Well, Ryan is a business account manager for Verizon originally from Montana, and Lisa has owned her own graphic design and photography business since 2009 and is a

Springfield/Chatham native. Lately, Lisa has had to step away from her business to focus on getting rid of the cancer once and for all. However, her love of the arts remains. This couple has two amazing daughters who also love the arts. Whether it's making their own puppet show, putting on a concert in the living room, or just using their imaginations to entertain themselves, their creativity will only grow in the coming years. Ryan and Lisa want to keep the arts alive in Springfield for them. Why the arts? Essentially when you create an art piece with paint, take an inspiring photograph, perform in one of the plays at the Hoogland or the Muni, or play an instrument, the goal is always the same: to evoke a positive emotional response to your creation. Even if that emotion is sadness, you end up smiling through the tears. That can be a hard concept to grasp, but bring someone in need of uplifting to see *Shrek*, *Peter Pan*, or a jazz quartet and their mood immediately improves. There's too much anger and hate in our world today so if more people took the time to either participate or witness the arts community, maybe just maybe we can help them find happiness through the darkness.

Zach and Naomi Baliva moved back to



Chatham in 2013 (Zach was born in Springfield) after spending two years in Rome, Italy, where they assisted church planners, refugees, and victims of

human trafficking.

Currently, Zach is a video producer and multimedia editor at Memorial Health System, and Naomi is taking care of their 6-year-old son, Anthony, while pursuing her Masters of Divinity degree. Together, they are working on a series of short documentary projects with a partner in Florence.

Zach and Naomi are supporting the Springfield Area Arts Council because their family has enjoyed and participated in Council events for several generations, and they hope to pass along that tradition to Anthony. Additionally, both Zach and Naomi have worked professionally in the arts, mostly in film, television, and animation. They have seen first-hand how organizations like the SAAC inspire local residents to

explore their passions and discover new talents. They hope to encourage others to support the organization that continues to enrich the lives of many here in our Springfield community.

Samantha Gaines and DeShanee Miner



have been friends since college (with matching friendship rings to prove it!). They are honored to be a part of this year's court. Both have participated

in many productions in Springfield and the surrounding areas. Samantha works for the Springfield Housing Authority and DeShanee works for SPARC. Both have a love for theater because of all the wonderful people they have met, amazing bonds, and great displays of talent the area offers. They are beyond excited to give back to the theatre community that they consider a home away from home and to make this year's court fabulous.

Megan Hart is Gymnastics Coordinator



and Head Coach of the gymnastics team at the Springfield YMCA. In her free time she volunteers with the Southeast Sensations show choir. She has

been active in the arts for 13 years. Megan supports the arts because they have been a huge asset to her life, and she thinks that everyone should be able to experience them.

DeWayne Williams works for the YMCA as a Site Coordinator in the Youth Development Department. He also volunteers in his spare time with the Southeast High School Show Choir "The Sensations". DeWayne has been active in the local community theater for 8 years and loves the people that he continues to meet. DeWayne believes that the arts enrich lives and promote a healthy outlet and growth system for children and adults. Megan and DeWayne are both excited to be a part of this year's Adult Prom Court!

Continued on Page 3

SAAC needs your support! *A message from the Arts Council president*



My name is Troy Roark, current president of the SAAC. I want to thank you for your past support of our mission: *enriching the community through the arts*. It's your support that has made programs such as First Night Springfield, Artist on The Plaza, Arts in Education, City Arts and Community Arts Access Grants, On My Own Time, Uptown Friday Night, and the

Mayor's Awards for the Arts (the list goes on) smashing successes.

Alas, we at the SAAC find ourselves in a tremendous financial hole. As last count, we are running an approximate \$45,000 deficit in support from this time a year ago. Understandably, a good deal of this money is held up in a state budget impasse, but a large part of this downfall is a significant decrease of individual and corporate donations.

To put it bluntly, WE DESPERATELY NEED YOUR SUPPORT. If you've given in the past but haven't given recently, now is

a perfect time. If you've never given to the SAAC, understand that your contribution stays in Central Illinois. You affect thousands of students, hundreds of artists, and dozens of volunteers, and help our passionate few board members continue to foster our mission.

We look forward to your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Troy Roark, President

Springfield Area Arts Council

Arts organizations: Audiences Everywhere™ Workshop is May 11

The Springfield Area Arts Council is pleased to host the first-ever Illinois regional presentation of the Audiences Everywhere™ Workshop. With this workshop, we will discover a "mind-opening, rut-clearing and possibility-renewing" strategy for audience development created specifically for non-profit arts and cultural organizations. This forward-looking workshop delivers insights and real-world examples designed to get your organization advancing compelling new strategies for attracting, returning, cultivating, and diversifying audiences in an environment where they have access to infinite information and abundant leisure-time options.

It is critical for your organization to improve audience engagement. This workshop will help you specify actions to immediately and significantly achieve results.

Profound and actionable, you will learn:

- 1 impactful way to answer definitively the question, "Who is our audience?"
- 4 ways to use social media to "pull" (rather than "push") audience engagement
- 6 essential metrics to gauge the bottom line of audience engagement throughout your organization – and how to improve them dramatically
- 8 meaningful techniques to connect your audience to your organization's mission
- 12+ behaviors that make audience-building a priority for everyone in your organization
- and much more

Presentation of the Audiences Everywhere™ Workshop is supported, in part, by the sponsorship of Patron Technology,

Worldwide Ticketcraft, and the Salesforce Foundation.

Who should attend: CEOs/Executive/Managing Directors, Artistic Directors, Curators, Development and Marketing Professionals, and Board Leaders from organizations large and small and from every arts and cultural genre. This is about vigorously engaging audiences throughout your organization. Attendance by management teams is highly encouraged

as the workshop prompts profound group discussion.

Date: Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Time: 8:30 a.m. until Noon

Location: Hoogland Center for the Arts
420 S. Sixth Street, Springfield

Cost: \$ 25.00 per person (includes a continental breakfast and beverages)

Registrations in advance, please, by calling SAAC at 217-753-3519 (Jon or Sheila)

Adult Prom Court *(Continued from Page 2)*

Kate Catalano remembers the night she



first saw Josh. They were awkwardly standing around at their seventh/eighth grade dance (wearing silk button down shirts, no doubt) when Josh decided to stir things up by performing the 90s dance, the Worm. That's when she told herself, "I have to have him." A couple of years later, he chose her as a partner for German class to perform a German dialogue in front of their class. Kate assumed Josh was using her for her good class standing and decided to make Josh write the dialogue himself. They ended up reading a perverse German version of a passage from *Basic Instinct*. They got thrown out of class. This only made her want him more. After years of pining for one another, they reconnected while taking a Music Appreciation class together at Lincoln Land Community College. Their relationship became official on March 13, 1997.

Since, they have filled the last 19 years with friends, travel, good food, interesting beers, family fun, and so much love. Now married 10 years, Josh is a Director of Art and Productions by day and a singer song writer/musician for multiple bands in his spare time. Kate is a graduate from UIS with a bachelor's degree in Communication and currently bartends at local brew pub Obed and Isaac's. They have a baby daughter, Harper Kathleen, who takes up a lot of their time, but both continue to support all things original in Springfield. Josh has spent years booking countless out-of-town and local bands at venues around town. He also puts on an all-original music festival, The Downhome Music, Beer and Art Festival. Together they try to attend as many artistic events as they can. Josh and Kate are honored and excited to be part of this event and look forward to supporting the Springfield Area Art Council. Local talent and art are very important to both of them. Kate and Josh hope for your contributions and to become royalty, finally!

Artist on the Plaza returns

For the past 30 years, every Tuesday and Thursday from Memorial Day to Labor Day, SAAC has produced live performances from noon until 1:00 on the south side of the Old State Capitol in downtown Springfield. There is no admission charge. This year we're presenting the Artist on the Plaza series again, so come out during the lunch hour to relax and enjoy. Bring a lunch or order from the menus offered by downtown restaurants.

We work hard to employ local singers, instrumentalists, dancers, actors, storytellers, and other entertainers so that they can share their talent with as many people as possible. The Arts Council successfully partners with local businesses and individuals to underwrite this lunch-time series. Springfield's local residents and workers enjoy the variety of performing artists, and so do tourists. So come downtown for great mid-day performances this summer!

The Arts Council also offers sponsorships for Artist on the Plaza performances at \$100 per noon-hour performance. We are happy to recognize our sponsors on a sandwich board displayed near the performance area and to announce them before each concert. An entertainment schedule, distributed to at least fifty people at each performance, also lists all program sponsors, plus sponsors are named in our quarterly newsletter and on our website (www.springfieldartsco.org).

If you have any questions regarding Artist on the Plaza, then please call 753-3519 or email programs@springfieldartsco.org.

Accolades for the Arts

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

SAAC Grants \$16,000 to local organizations

The Springfield Area Arts Council has awarded over \$16,000 to local arts organizations through the Community Arts Access grants and City Arts grants programs.

Funding for the **Community Arts Access grants** comes from the Illinois Arts Council Agency, using appropriations from the National Endowment for the Arts, and from the SAAC. The \$8,450 available this year was distributed to 11 organizations to assist with their performing and visual arts programs: GenH Kids, Hoogland Center for the Arts Kids and Teens, Illinois Symphony Orchestra, James Weldon Johnson Study Guild, Land of Lincoln Barbershop Chorus, Prairie Art Alliance, Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony, Scholastic Art Awards – Mid-Central Illinois Region, Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Foundation, Springfield Ballet Company, and Springfield Urban League, Inc.

The City Arts grants are funded by the City of Springfield and the SAAC. This year, \$7,750 was allocated by the City Arts panel. Nine of the awards were Rent Subsidy grants to assist organizations with the rental of space for rehearsals, performances, exhibits, or classes. Organizations receiving these awards were Illinois Prairie Pastel Society,

Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Land of Lincoln Barbershop Chorus, Menard County Singers, Prairie Art Alliance, Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony, Sound Celebration Chorus, Springfield Ballet Company, and Vachel Lindsay Association.

In addition, Senior Services of Central Illinois, Inc. received a City Arts grant for an Artist Residency program.

Each year, the Springfield Area Arts Council accepts project proposals through July, with panelists reviewing the proposals and the SAAC Board recommending funding by mid-September. Funds are distributed after October 1.

This year's Community Arts Access grant award cycle was placed on hold due to delays in the distribution of funds from the National Endowment for the Arts via the Illinois Arts Council Agency. That distribution did not take place until late February.

The Springfield Area Arts Council will begin its next round of Community Arts Access grants and City Arts grants on July 1, when application forms and information about the FY2017 programs will be available through the SAAC website, www.springfieldartsco.org.

Arts at the Core: Every School, Every Student

- ♦ 92 percent of superintendents and 94 percent of principals in Illinois agree that the arts are an essential part of a well-rounded, quality education.
- ♦ Despite this, 1 in 5 schools report no arts programming in visual arts, theatre, music, or dance.
- ♦ Students in rural areas and small school districts receive the least amount of instruction in the arts.
- ♦ 1 in 4 schools and 1 in 10 school districts do not employ an arts specialist in any arts discipline.
- ♦ The majority of high school students are not required to take an arts course in order to graduate.
- ♦ The most significant barrier to arts education is budget considerations according to school administrators.

Source: Arts Alliance Illinois (2005)



Singer-songwriter Ben Bedford in an SAAC-sponsored Arts in Education event, held at Auburn High School

Teens find emotional outlet with poetry

by Isabel Wottowa

This column first appeared in the State Journal-Register on March 8, 2016.

Before Poetry Out Loud, I thought poetry was for skinny white guys with bad goatees.



Now, however, I understand that poetry is all-inclusive. Poetry gives me an outlet, a way to express my feelings in an environment different from any I had experienced before.

Poetry often gets a bad rap. Its structure can be confusing and boring if you don't put the time into understanding a poem. Writing poetry in and of itself can be a frustrating process. And there's a stereotype of people who love poetry – namely, that they're weird.

But Poetry Out Loud helped me dispel those notions.

For those who don't know, Poetry Out Loud is a national contest for high school students for original poetry recitation. It encourages teens to learn more about poetry and its recitation. According to its website, the program helps master our public speaking skills and builds our self-confidence. The rules are that we have to choose a poem from the anthology online and prepare a recitation based on how we interpret the poem.

I got to participate in the regional competition for Poetry Out Loud in February. It really opened my eyes to the many ways a single poem can be interpreted and how it can be a useful exercise in expressing and channeling my emotions.

I also got to meet kids from all over central Illinois and make new friends, like Mariah

Brooks. Mariah is a junior at Southeast High School, and she moved on to state for her recitation of "Negative," written by Kevin Young.

"Poetry means expressing one's feelings or ideas through words," Mariah said. "The poet may have written a poem to have a certain meaning, but a reader can interpret it to have a different one that may be the poet never thought of, or it just fits them best."

At school, I told my friends about Poetry Out Loud and they said that it sounded lame and laughed about it. When I told one of my friends that I was writing this column about my experience, they responded with, "Poetry is not important. It is interesting, but it is not important."

But it is important. Some of the greatest poets of all time have given voice to emotions and events that we can't find words to. Things like mental illnesses, oppression, discrimination – poetry is about describing what others can't describe, and reading it aloud spreads the words for all ears to hear.

Being around kids like Mariah and other people who were enthusiastic about poetry made me feel empowered. I found people who thought poetry was something worth pouring time and effort into, and it was so exciting for me.

So, yeah maybe poetry is a little nerdy but it is a way for me to channel my feelings, and



I am lucky to have that in my life. I can only hope others can find something as satisfying as poetry in theirs.

– Issy Wottowa is a sophomore at Sacred Heart-Griffin High School in Springfield.



POETRY OUT LOUD: CENTRAL ILLINOIS REGIONAL CONTEST
Left to right: Troy Roark, SAAC board president; Aleeya Reed (Eisenhower High School, Decatur), runner-up; Mariah Brooks (Southeast High School, Springfield), champion



POETRY OUT LOUD: ILLINOIS STATE CONTEST
Amber Rice (Maine East High School, Park Ridge), runner-up; Mariah Brooks (Southeast High School, Springfield), champion

Mariah Brooks will represent Illinois at the Poetry Out Loud 2016 National Finals, May 2 – 4 in Washington, DC.



POETRY OUT LOUD: ILLINOIS STATE CONTEST
From left to right: Grace Anderson, Thérèse Beabout, Morgan Harvey, Mariah Brooks, Shireen Hassan, Demetrius Markham, Madelyn Foster, Ana Plankenhorn, Michaela Goodley, Amber Price, Aleeya Reed, Caroline Shaffer, Joshua Harris, Iran Torres, Claudia VanOpdorp, Katelyn Wittenborn. Photographer: William Richards



420 South Sixth Street
Springfield IL 62701
Phone: 217-753-3519
Email: office@springfieldartsco.org
Website: www.springfieldartsco.org



This program is
partially supported
by a grant from the
Illinois Arts Council Agency

SAAC Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 12, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

Hoogland Center for the Arts
Board Room, 3rd Floor
420 South Sixth Street, Springfield

- Summary of our last year
- Election of New Board Members and Officers
- Recognition of Retiring and Past Board Members
- Transaction of any business that comes properly before the membership

Uptown Friday Night

Now in its 21st year, Uptown Friday Night is the Arts Council's free performance series, taking place 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.

APRIL

- 8 Ocean State
- 15 Starlifter USAF Jazz Ensemble
- 22 TBA
- 29 Peggy Lowder Quartet

MAY

- 6 Julie Jules and Company
- 13 Gus Pflugmacher Trio
- 20 Thornebyrds
- 27 Soldiers of Swing

JUNE

- 3 Kevin Hart
- 10 TBA
- 17 Bobby Remack Trio
- 24 TBA