In keeping with its mission, the Springfield Area Arts Council (SAAC) is pleased to announce two upcoming partnerships. Thanks to a generous bequest from former Arts Council Board President, the late Bobbette Gerlach, SAAC is able to fund these new initiatives.

One partnership is with the musical duo of Brian FitzGerald and Martin McCormack, collectively known as Switchback, known for traditional Celtic music and original Americana songs reflecting their Irish heritage and Midwestern roots, and also renowned for their outreach programs for schools, senior citizen groups, and special needs audiences.

With $5,000 in SAAC funding from the Gerlach bequest, Switchback collaborated with Alisabeth Hopper of Music Therapy Connections and Hope Learning Academy to develop a week-long music-based curriculum tailored to Hope students and faculty. The resulting curriculum was put in place from October 22 through 26 on Hope’s Springfield campus and then modified for use at Hope Learning Academy in Chicago. The program is the joint property of all the collaborators and will be made available to other educational institutions. See details in the related article on page 5.

In another new Artist-In-Residence partnership, SAAC will contribute $10,000 over two calendar years to the Springfield Art Association to establish a Glass Artist Residency. The Springfield Art Association and SAAC will collaborate on printed promotional materials and broadcast promotions, and SAAC members will be eligible for member fees to participate in SAA events and classes, including glass-related happenings, and the SAA Beaux Arts Ball in 2018 and 2019.

Says Sheila Walk, SAAC’s interim executive director, “Arts in Education is a long-running and important Arts Council program, and it is one that Duane and Bobette Gerlach valued. The Springfield Area Arts Council looks forward enthusiastically to these collaborations honoring the wishes of Mrs. Gerlach who served the Arts Council so ably as a board member and volunteer.”
First Night Springfield Preview
by Courtney Wick
First Night Springfield is our annual New Year’s Eve Celebration of the Arts. This year’s First Night, on Monday, December 31, will feature 43 performances with more than 200 local entertainers, plus our usual fireworks spectacular.

This year, we tried to put a new act on each stage, each beginning at a different time slot. Here are some of the new acts:

• Sesame Street Characters dance party: 2:30–3:00pm at Springfield High School Annex
• Colin Helton, Acoustic singer-songwriter: 9:30pm in H. D. Smith Art Gallery
• Dandelion Pickers, folk duo: 7:00–7:45pm at Lincoln Home Visitors Center
• Square of The Roots Band: Bluegrass, 8:30–10:00pm at Lincoln Library (Springfield’s Public Library)
• Pam Brown, Living with Mrs. Lincoln one-woman show: 5:00pm–5:45pm

Springfield needs your vote!
by Lisa Clemmons-Stott
Downtown Springfield is now in the running to host a 10-12 week live music series next summer, but it needs your vote this November.

Sponsored by the Mortimer and Mimi Levitt Foundation, a national foundation dedicated to strengthening the social fabric of America through free live music, the Levitt AMP Grant Awards are an exciting matching grant opportunity to serve small to mid-sized towns and cities with populations up to 400,000.

Up to 15 nonprofits will receive $25,000 each in matching funds to produce their own Levitt AMP Music Series—an outdoor, free concert series featuring a diverse line-up of professional musicians.

Another key to winning a grant is hosting the series in a large, under-utilized lawn space that is accessible to all.

Downtown Springfield Inc., Springfield Area Arts Council, and Downtown Springfield Heritage Foundation jointly submitted the proposal to activate the North Mansion Block and to gauge the popularity of a large-scale activity on the southern portion of the block, which must remain greenspace due to underground water issues.

Springfield’s proposal will be posted on the Levitt AMP website for public voting starting November 1 through November 20 at http://levittamp.org.

A successful campaign for Downtown Springfield depends on community participation to get as many online votes as possible to bring the concert series to town. Community support, as measured by the number of online votes received, will be one of the key factors when the Levitt Foundation narrows the field down to the 15 winners.

The Top 25 finalists will be selected through online public voting. The Levitt Foundation will then review the proposals of these finalists and will select up to 15 Levitt AMP winners, which will be announced on December 18, 2018.

Uptown Friday Night
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.

NOVEMBER
2 Chafrm
9 Sharpen Up
16 Chris Camp and his Blues Ambassadors
23 HOLIDAY — CLOSED
30 Johnnie Owens and Friends

DECEMBER
7 Samba Llamas
14 Denise LaGrassa Quartet
21 Sam Crain Quartet
28 HOLIDAY — CLOSED

Kay Fuerer
Kay Fuerer, former Executive Director of the SAAC, passed away on October 18, 2018. Kay was instrumental in the creation of First Night Springfield and saw her dream of an arts center with the opening of the Hoogland Center for the Arts. She took great pride in helping everyone in the local art community thrive. Kay also served the Springfield area through a number of other organizations; she was a volunteer leader for ARC (now SPARC) and served on the Springfield Ballet Company Board and on the Allocation Panel of the United Way. She was a committee member of Lincoln Academy; a member of the American Symphony Orchestra League; served on the Board of Directors for the Illinois Art Alliance and the Illinois Alliance for Arts Education.

According to her wishes, no services will be held and her body is to be donated to the Anatomical Gift Association.

The Springfield Area Arts Council extends its condolences to Kay’s family and friends.
SAAC Financial and In-Kind Contributors

FISCAL YEAR 2018 (October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018)

Thank you! We couldn’t do it without you!

Ace Sign Company
Bunn Corporation
Bunn, Hy and Nancy

Ala, Tom
Bunting, Aleshia

Allbritton, Aimee
Burris, Lisa

AmazonSmile Foundation
Bussard, Connie

Arlington’s
By-Pass Auto Body

 Arnott, Roxanne
Cannon, Ryan

Augie’s Front Burner
Capati, Carlos and Myrna

B J Grand Salons
Capestrain, Anne and Ray

Bailey’s Place / Robbie’s
Cary, Paul R.

Bedford, Ben
Catton, Kari

Bedford Photography Studio
Cavalier, Caroline

Benjamin, Carol
Chapman, Delinda

Benoit, Anna
Chatara, Nathela

Bedford, Delores
Cheaney, Phyllis and Richard

Benoit, Joel
Chesley, Thèa

Benton, Amy
Christian, Angela

Berman, Deborah and Harry
City of Springfield

Bernasek, Blanca and Mick
Claman, Cassandra

Berning, Richard and Carolyn
Cluck, Margaret

Bettis, Gary
Cobby, Michael

Biggerstaff, Erin and Donald
Color World of Printing

Birtch, Elaine
Conklen, Neil and Joyce

Black Sheep Café
Conklin, Bret

Bley, Nick
Conn Hospitality Group

Bobby Shaw Property
Cooper, Phillip

Maintenance
Corrigan, K. A.T.

Bonee, Misty
Croke, Brooke

Bova, Ann
Cunningham, Jerry

Bowman, Carol
Cunningham, Mary

Boyer, Irene and Steve
Cunningham, Sean

Brandt, Edward
Currie, Alayna

Brandt, Scott
Dahlquist, James

Brantley, Norma
Darling, Dennis

Brinkman, Tyler
Davis, Gary and Karen

Brissenden, Mrs. Walter F.
Decker, Corie

Brock, Otis and Betty
Design Ideas

Brotz, Amanda
Deters, Jacob

Buffington, Rod and Rosemary
Deters, Sherri

Bunn, Hy and Nancy
Development Services Group

Bussard, Connie
DeWeese, Diana

By-Pass Auto Body
Dinges, George

Cannon, Ryan
Do, Andrew

Capati, Carlos and Myrna
Dodwell, Loretta

Diplo, Carolyn and Dan
Douglas, Rachel

Dunkel, Wanda L.
Dow, Aren

Dyson, Carol
Downtown Springfield, Inc.

Eagleton, Linda and Lanie
Drennan, Laura

Eastvold, Katharine
Dungan, Carolyn and Dan

Eck, Shafer and Punke
Dunkel, Carolyn and Dan

Ecklund, Don
Dunkel, John

Edmiston, Mark and Charlotte
Dunlop, Craig

Edwards, Jim and Diane
Eubanks, Phyllis

Efird, Jr., Frank Kimball
Fairchild, Phyllis and George

Electronic Scrip Rebate
Farrell, David and Laurie

Eller, Vincent
Ferrara, Barbara

Engel, William and Barbara
Feurer, Kay

Engrained Brewing Company
Figgins, Laurel

Engel, Mary Anne
Fisher, Ryan

Entenmann’s
Folse, Hazen and Roland

Bunn Corporation
Foster, David

Bunting, Aleshia
Foster, Patrick

City of Springfield
Frachey, Sherry

Conklin, Candora
Frescura, Ann

Cluck, Margaret
Fun Shop

Cobby, Michael
Funk, Deanna and Don

Color World of Printing
Funkenbusch, Philip

Conklen, Neil and Joyce
Gardner, Joan

Cunningham, Jerry
Garvis, Kara

Cunningham, Mary
Gilliam, Jay

Cunningham, Sean
GiveGab.com

Currie, Alayna
Gleason, Patricia and Luke

Dahlquist, James
Grace Lutheran Church

Darling, Dennis
Graham, Lori

Davis, Gary and Karen
Gramlich, Charles

Decker, Corie
Grant, Deborah Cavanaugh

Design Ideas
Granzeau, Lizabeth and Tim

Deters, Jacob
Griffin, Lisa

Deters, Sherri
Griffin, Sandy

Development Services Group
Grimes, Thomas

DeWeese, Diana
Gronewold, Jennifer

Dinges, George
Hagstrom, Misty

Do, Andrew
Hahn, Douglas

Dodwell, Loretta
Hale, Louise

Douglas, Rachel
Hall, Kelly

Dow, Aren
Hallmark, Donald and Linda

Downtown Springfield, Inc.
Hamilton, Laura

Drennan, Laura
Hanauer, Janene

Dungan, Carolyn and Dan
Hanson Professional Services

Dunkel, Carolyn and Dan
Hassebrock, Steve and

Dunkel, Wanda L.
Jeannette

Dyson, Carol

Eagleton, Linda and Lanie

Eagleton, Linda and Lanie

Eastvold, Katharine

Eccles, Randy

Eck, Shafer and Punke

Ecklund, Don

Edmiston, Mark and Charlotte

Edwards, Jim and Diane

Efird, Jr., Frank Kimball

Electronic Scrip Rebate

Eller, Vincent

Engel, William and Barbara

Engrained Brewing Company

Engel, Mary Anne

Entenmann’s

Foster, David

Foster, Patrick

Frachey, Sherry

Frescura, Ann

Fun Shop

Funk, Deanna and Don

Funkenbusch, Philip

Gardner, Joan

Garvis, Kara

Gilliam, Jay

GiveGab.com

Gleason, Patricia and Luke

Grace Lutheran Church

Graham, Lori

Gramlich, Charles

Grant, Deborah Cavanaugh

Granzeau, Lizabeth and Tim

Griffin, Lisa

Griffin, Sandy

Grimes, Thomas

Gronewold, Jennifer

Hagstrom, Misty

Hahn, Douglas

Hale, Louise

Hall, Kelly

Hallmark, Donald and Linda

Hamilton, Laura

Hanauer, Janene

Hanson Professional Services

Hassebrock, Steve and

Jeannette

Hayes, Sharon

Hayner, Aggie

Hedstrom, Josh

Heise, Molly

Hemberger, Molly

Hobby Lobby

Hoffman, Shelley and Ken

Holmes, Beverly

Holmes, Carly

Holmes, Susan

Hoogland Center for the Arts

Hopewell, Diane

Horace Mann Company

Huston, Jim Allan

IBM International Foundation

Illinois Arts Council Agency

Illinois Times

Jackson, Jacqueline

Jackson, Jane and Cliff

Jacobson, Jerome

Johnson, Brenda

Jones Blythe Construction

Josserand, Jerry

Kay, Roberta and Robert

Kamholz, Doug

Kellner, Bill and Julie

Kennedy, John Dale and Ronee

Kichinko, Martha

Killian, Bernard and Barbara

Kindred, Melissa

Kirk, Jamie

Knight, Sherry and Morrison, Vaughn

Knox, Michelle

Koerner, M. A.

Kohlrus, Karl and Christine

Kolster, Katie

Kruse, Kyla E.

La Piazza Cucina Italiana

LaBarre, Alfred and Melinda

Langner, Jennifer

Lau, Joseph

Lawton, Thomas and Lorri

Lazarides, Christie

Lee, Cheryl

Leka, Jill

Leonatti, David

Levi, Ray and Shoup

Foundation

Levin, Peter and Ivan

Lincoln Home Visitors Center
Financial and In-Kind Contributors

Lincoln Library
Lincoln Memorial Garden
Londrigan, Anne
Long, Cydney
Lorenzini, Gail and John
Loux, Kathy and James
Lowe’s
Luepke, Michael and Linda
Lumsden, David and Dianna
Lyons, Scott and Carol
Madian, Jennifer
Mann, Alan
Mann, Jordan and Debra
Marketplace
Matheny, Jim
Mathewson, Mark and Barbara
Maurer, Katie
Maynerich, Andrew
Maynerich Financial
McCabe, Lori Ann
McDaniel, Hannah and Richard
McLane, Richard
McMenamin, Joe and Lynn
Meigooni, Muhammad
Merchant House
Merrill Lynch
Metla, Spoonthry
Metzger, Erica
Meyer, Cynthia and Karl
Micheletta, Kenneth
Miller, John and Kibber
Miller, Stephanie
Mitchell, Brian
Morphew, Suzanne
Morrisson, Vauhn
Moulton, Kriehg and Linda
Muller, Haley
Myers Commercial Real Estate
Myers, Michael and Teena
NPR Illinois
Network for Good
Nicol, Michelle
Noel, Rosemary
Northside Children’s Community Library
Nostalgia Pyrotechnics
Obed and Isaacs
Obert, Rachael
Ogilvy, Elizabeth
Ogilvy, Kate
Old State Capitol
Osborne, Heather
The Ogilvy Studio
O’Shea, Paul
Overlin, Cayleigh
Parker, Elizabeth
PayPal Giving Fund
Pence, Mark and Cheryl
Pence, Phyllis
Pence, Reed and Madonna
Pennell, Caroline
Petersen, Lucas
Phaneuf, Dave
Phifer, Evana
Piland, Janis
Piper, Jr., Ralph
Pittman, Nicole
Popovitch, Jonathan
Poskin, Polly
Powell, Darlene
Quenette Development
R T Consultants
Ragan, Donna
Rambach, Steve and Libby
Rhodes, Virgil
Richardson, Scott
Risman, Wanda
Rivas, Adena
Roark, Troy and Heather
Robinson, Gary T. and Maria
Robinson, Sarah A
Rowe, Brianna
RSM US LLP
Rueff, Ashley
Russillo, Mark
Russo, Craig
Ryan, Margaret
Ryder, Peggy and Tom
Saint John’s Hospital
Sanderson, Kellise
Sass, Kathleen
Sauls, Ariel
Scaife, Sue and Steve
Secret, Vixen
Sees, Kathy
Seidl, R. C.
Shanklin, Lynn
Sharka, Rodney and Myrtle
Shaver, Mariah
Shaw, D. Sue
Shaw, David
Shields, Stephen and Stephanie
Shiffer, Lacey
Shufeldt, Warren and Gabrielle
Simpson, Nancy
Sitko, Kyle
Sloan, Cecelia and Robert
Smith, Paul
Smith, Steven and Rita
Sobeck, Carol and Larry
Springfield Airport Authority
Springfield Art Association
Springfield Chapter Sweet Adelines International
Springfield Dance
Springfield Downtown Parking
Springfield High School
Staggs, Francie
Stark, Christie
State House Inn
Stead, Ricky
Steindl, Martin and Collins, Ann
Steinmacher, Carl
Stern, Mark and Cheryl
Steward, David
Stewart, Amy
Stone, Lisa and Stephen
Stott, Sean and Lisa Clemmons
Streeter, Eileen
Stroud, Kathyrn
Suggs, Guerry and Alessandrin, Jo
Sumner, Martha
Sundown One
Swihart, Tamara
Taff, Melvin and Jeanne
Tapscott, Cathy
Topouzian, Loucine
Tossi, Lisa
Tracy, Don and Wanda
Tran, Erika
Tran, Teresa
Troy, Bart and Penny
Tungett, Michael
Tungett, Michele
Dave Caim of UMedia
Uptown Garages
Vaught, Thomas M.
Villaneuva, Kim
Visit Springfield
Vitale, Gary
Volkmann, Roberta
Walbaum, Bob and Anita
Walk, Sheila
Wallner, Jennifer
Walters, Kay
Warren, Seth
Warren-Boynton State Bank
Watson, Barb
Welker, Ashley
Whalen, Lynn
Wilday, Martha and Jeff
Williams II, Craig
Williams, Christine
Williams, Kurt
Wilson, Carla
WindSolar USA
Wm. Van’s Coffee
Witter, Karen and Randy
Wollan-Kriel, Penny
Woodson, Matthew
Wyndham Springfield City Centre
Yokem, Raychel
Young, Mary
Zimmers, Nancy and Mike

Accolades for the Arts

Accolades for the Arts is published by the Springfield Area Arts Council. Articles by Théa Chesley, Lisa Clemmons-Stott, Doug Kamholz, Mark Pence, Sheila Walk, and Courtney Wick. Layout by Mark Pence. Your comments are welcome. Call the Arts Council office at (217) 753-3519.

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.
Switchback Develops Outreach Program with Hope

By Doug Kamholz

Folks who follow the band Switchback see occasional dates on their schedule marked “Outreach Program.” Let’s go close-up with one of those, one that happened in October in Springfield, Illinois.

The Hope Institute for Families and Children provides educational and residential services to children facing extraordinary cognitive, physical and emotional challenges. Switchback came for a week-long residency, everything from one-on-one engagement to an all-school concert.

This Outreach Program was quite different from a one-show gig. To plan their time, Martin McCormack and Brian FitzGerald worked with Hope’s music therapist for months leading up to their week at the school. Alisabeth Hopper helped the band create a curriculum, a compendium of lesson plans to be piloted at her Hope Learning Center. Full of details, activities, aims, and goals this “HopeWork” is designed to be used in part or whole at other facilities by other musical performers.

About 30 youngsters arrive in a smallish space along with half a dozen staff. Marty and Brian have met all these folks earlier in the week, and most of today’s songs have been sung in smaller classroom rehearsals. With the band plugged in just a few feet from the front row, first up is a medley of sing-alongs working off the same tune. It’s “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” easily oozing into “Baa, Baa, Black Sheep” with a smooth segue into “The ABC Song” where Marty asks Brian if he’s truly confident of the lyrics.

Songs throughout this half-hour session start and end gently, the idea being to stimulate but not over-stimulate Hope’s students.

Next up, so to speak, is “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” with full-throat audience participation on the “One, two, three strikes you’re out!” line.

Marty then reminds the students they are working on “White Christmas” for their upcoming holiday show so they should give that one a try. The room is full of singing and signing the familiar December-dream carol. Later the audience is asked for a song suggestion. It’s “Jingle Bells” with bells handed out and enthusiastic response to the shouted “Hey!” with Brian upping the tempo each time around on his new mandolin.

Switchback did an instrumental so the audience could be the percussion section, slapping out beats on their thighs. It was just a strum-along, but Brian, always the creator, started whipping off licks on his Taylor M4-CE that would fly on any stage.

With the end near, Switchback led the singing of that tender and saucy tale of an errant meatball sneezed into oblivion—“On Top of Spaghetti”—to the delight of all.

After a few small-group photos with much hugging and many smiles, Switchback finished with Hope’s traditional good-bye song and its lyric “Music is over until next time.” Then Marty signs off with a warning about the next day’s closing concert: “There might be dancing!”

Back years ago when I first met Martin and Brian, they were fresh from a half-day at this same Hope Institute. Over lunch Marty said Switchback wanted to be “the house band for Hope.” Pretty darned endearing. Sheila says it took a few years and a generous bequest, but this year she made it happen.

Ace Sign Company event

Dennis Brinquet of Ace Sign Company hosted a celebration for Arts Council members on November 1 as he lit a new addition to the sign museum – the ART sign from the former Art Theatre in downtown Springfield. Find out more about the museum here: http://www.acesignco.com/museum/

Poetry Out Loud 2019 Schedule

Central Illinois Regional Contest: Wednesday, February 13, 2019; Theatre Three, Hoogland Center for the Arts
Illinois State Contest: Friday, March 8, 2019; LRS Theatre, Hoogland Center for the Arts
This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

Think Children Don’t Need ART In the 21st Century? THINK AGAIN!
An Arts Education Teaches Children To...

- Organize
  - Sequence & Rehearse
  - Be a Better Listener & Contributor
  - Humor & Skill
- Communicate
  - Visual Communication Skills
  - Nonvisual Communication Skills
- Be Creative
  - Think on Your Feet
  - Evaluate, Interpret, Reflect
- Be Self-directed
  - Persist
  - Stay the Course
- Be Socially Responsible
  - Be an Advocate
  - Do Service Learning
- Problem Solve
  - Stay Objective
  - Make Decisions
- Be Fluent With Technology
  - Use Information
  - Use Media Literacy Skills
  - Be a Digital Citizen