

Springfield Cultural Arts Foundation Magazine

Art & Poetry gallery p14

Severyn Beekman • David Briggs • James Bockmier
Scott Day • Julie Dailey • Diane Deleonardo
Kerry Farrel • Christy Freeman • Mackenzie Hostetler
KITT St. Johns • Annette Johnson • Cindy Ladage
Sianyn Leigh • Chris Martin • Judith Nichols
Jose Ochoa • Felicia Olin • Alex Owen
Alex Rossi • Mary Ellen Strack • Shatriya Smith
Rick Taylor • Jessy Unthank
Kristyn Yocius • Monica Zanetti

March 2025 | FREE: Take One



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Music Series p7

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BLACK HISTORY EDUCATIONAL CANDLES FUND RAISER

"IT IS AN ARTIST'S DUTY TO REFLECT THE TIMES"
THIS FUND RAISER IS AIMED AT PUTTING MORE BLACK HISTORY IN YOUR HOME - OFFICE - SCHOOL - CHURCH - BUSINESS - LIFE.

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2025

LEVITT AMP

Springfield

MUSIC SERIES

PRESENTED BY 

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Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos!

Welcome to the Springfield Cultural Arts Foundation's Magazine!

As the founder of the Springfield Cultural Arts Foundation, I am fueled by my passion as an activist and advocate for Springfield's artistic community. This magazine serves as my platform to promote the immense talents that flourish within our community and to celebrate our vibrant arts scene.

In challenging times, it's crucial for the arts to rise to the occasion. That's why this magazine and foundation are dedicated to honoring both the art itself and the individual artists who create it. Established in September 2024, the Springfield Cultural Arts Foundation is a non-profit organization focused on creating opportunities for the arts in all forms. Together with my husband, Jeremy Reed, and our children, Jacqueline and Nicholas, we have exciting plans for the future. We are exploring the possibility of hosting a cultural street festival-style event in downtown Springfield this fall, which promises to be a wonderful celebration of creativity.

So far, we've had some fabulous events! We partnered with the Springfield Youth Performance Group for an exciting collaboration, "Cocoa with Clara," and the board juried an art show to showcase the incredible talent of Springfield artists. We also held our first fundraiser, where we made beautiful flower crowns. Each event has been a true celebration of creativity and community, and I can't

wait to see what we accomplish next!

I hope you enjoy the talents of the artists featured in this magazine. If you'd like to learn more about our mission, please feel free to email me at springfieldculturalarts@gmail.com. – *Monica Zanetti*



**Thank you to all the artists and poets
for submitting your work!**

Contributors

Monica Zanetti, Jeremy Reed,
Daisy Contreras, Sookyoung Suh, PhD,
1221 Photography, "Lisita" Jimenez Bandy
Joseph Copley

**springfieldculturalartsfoundation.com
springfieldculturalarts@gmail.com**



Springfield Immigrant
Advocacy Network

Who We Are: Springfield Immigrant Advocacy Network (SIAN) is a grassroots volunteer organization dedicated to protecting the rights and promoting the well-being and inclusion of Springfield's immigrant and refugee communities through advocacy, education, and direct assistance.

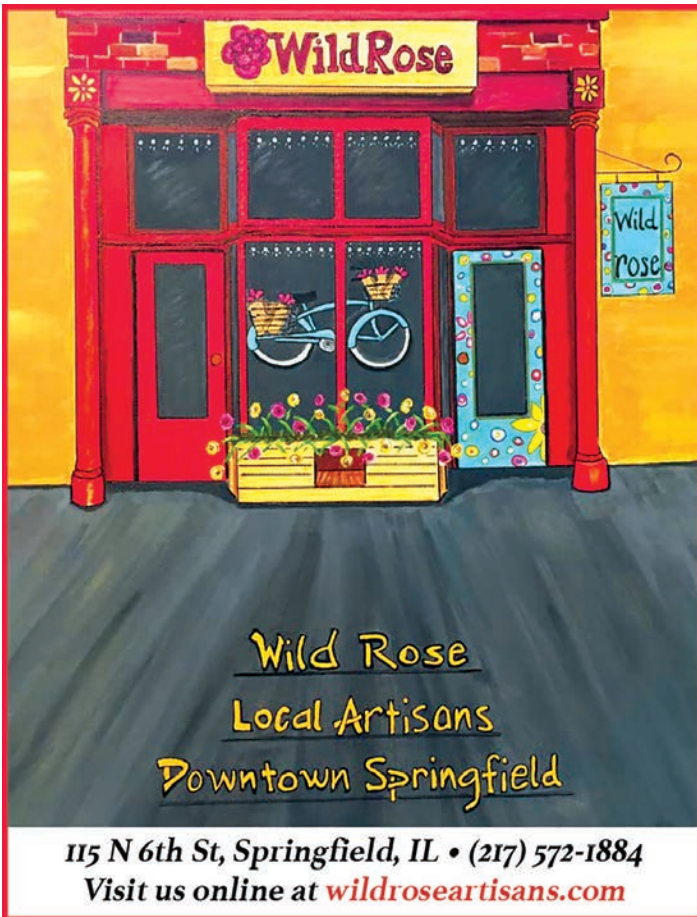
JOIN US!: We want to join you in contributing to a thriving Springfield in which ALL are included, safe, valued, and welcome. SIAN partners with other organizations that share our mission. It relies solely on volunteers to accomplish its mission.

Learn more about SIAN and how you
can help. Contact us at
springfieldimmigrant@gmail.com

ONE OF THE
SE DAYS WE
WILL FIND AN
EW LOCATION



COMMUNITY



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Local Artisans
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In the heart of downtown Springfield, history and culture intertwine, revealing enchanting streets adorned with timeless architecture and contemporary boutiques. Its premier attractions, paired with a welcoming embrace, promise a truly delightful experience for all who wander.

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www.route66filmfestival.net

November 7 & 8, 2025
Hoogland Center for the Arts
420 S. 6th St., Springfield IL

Screenings of Short and Full Length Independent Films from throughout the World
Free Admission, Complimentary Popcorn, Awards Ceremony,
Networking with Film Directors & Producers, Red Carpet Photos



Posada Art Show & Mixer

December 18, 2024 at Wild Rose Artisans Gallery & Boutique

The “Posada Art Show & Mixer,” held on December 18, 2024, was a remarkable event that celebrated creativity and community within the local arts scene. The term “posada” refers to a traditional Mexican celebration commemorating the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, embodying themes of hospitality and togetherness. This festive spirit set a warm and inviting atmosphere for the evening.

Artists were given the unique opportunity to introduce themselves and discuss the narratives behind their artwork with attendees. This interactive format allowed guests to gain a deeper understanding of the artistic process and the emotional connections that inform each piece. The evening transformed into a rich dialogue between creators and audiences, emphasizing the importance of personal storytelling in art.

Adding to the cultural experience, Springfield Cultural Arts Foundation Board Member Lisita Bandy provided an array of delightful culinary offerings, including sweet tamales, Mexican hot chocolate, and Café de Olla. These traditional treats not only enhanced the event but also created a sensory connection to the heritage celebrated during the posada.

The Posada Art Show & Mixer successfully fostered a sense of community, encouraging meaningful conversations and connections among artists and art enthusiasts alike. For those who were unable to attend, there will be additional opportunities to engage with local artists and experience the vibrant art scene in Springfield. Stay tuned for future events that continue to showcase and celebrate the talent within our community. 🌸







Christi Walden and Emily Belletire of LEVITT AMP SPRINGFIELD

Interview prepared by Jeremy Reed / Photos by 1221 Photography

When thinking about the inaugural edition of the Springfield Cultural Arts Foundation Magazine our immediate thoughts went to one of the biggest local successes, the Levitt AMP Springfield Music Festival.

For this reason, we reached out to the volunteers, yes you read that right, no one running the series is paid. The volunteer leadership committee plans, schedules and runs the popular weekly summer performances. We spoke with Christi Walden, the Coordinating Chair, Emily Belletire, the Music Chair, and Downtown Springfield Heritage Foundation, who fills the vital role of a major financial partner.

Springfield Cultural Arts Foundation (SCAF):
Where do we begin?

Christi Walden (Christi): I think it is VERY important to include that no one running the Series is getting paid and the Series is non-profit. We are a volunteer committee made up of individuals. Downtown Springfield Heritage Foundation (DSHF) is our financial partner, accepting the sponsor dollars and making payments to vendors and talent. I attached information about the Levitt Foundation as it is important to recognize them. PNC Bank is our Series Sponsor and has been since year one. They give us \$30k and \$15k, respectively, each year. All other monies and services are donated

by local businesses, groups, and organizations.

This will be our sixth, and possibly final season, as a Levitt AMP site. Some other organization, entity, or individual will have to step up to apply for another grant cycle and RUN the Series. DSHF, as the 501c3 is willing to partner again as they did with DSI originally.

Emails about music and booking go to music@downtownspringfield.org.

Emails about becoming a food/beverage/retail vendor or Community Row partner go to thetiethatbindsepp@gmail.com

Emails about volunteering, sponsorships, and all other things go to levittamp@downtownspringfield.org.



SCAF: How did you get involved with the Levitt Amp Springfield Music Festival?

Christi: Illinois REALTORS, my employer, hosted the Green Room in our building in 2019. I volunteered to help run the space each Thursday. Having experience in event planning, I had a lot of questions and suggestions that I shared with the then DSI Director, Lisa Clemmon-Stott. Most of my questions revolved around food & beverage vendors, and resulted in me being the Vendors Chair in 2021 and 2022. In 2023, I was a co-chair, along with then DSI Director, Kayla Graven, and Emily Belletire, the Music Chair. With the changes in leadership at DSI, Emily and I moved into our current roles for the Series.

SCAF: Each Season has had acts from many different genres, is that by design?

Emily Belletire (Emily): Yes, it is. Part of honoring our grant from the Levitt Foundation requires a different genre each week. Which we love because it allows us to bring music to Springfield that normally may not have the opportunity to be heard live here.

SCAF: How do you choose the final lineup?

Emily: There is a lot of back and forth between agents, bands, the Levitt Foundation, and music committee volunteers. The bands have to meet certain criteria that are put forth by the Levitt Foundation. It comes down to affordability, availability, and the right fit for our series.

SCAF: Is there thought given to representing different cultural backgrounds?

Christi: There absolutely is. The framework provided by the Levitt Foundation includes that in the music selection, but it is up to each community to be sure all cultural and racial communities are not only welcomed, but represented. We continue to try to grow our communication and outreach to the communities we don't see enough of on Thursdays.

Emily: Yes, we feel it is very important for different cultures to be represented.

SCAF: What would you like to do in upcoming years?

Christi: 2025 is the last year of this grant cycle. So, the committee members, Emily and I, along with our principal partner, Downtown Springfield Heritage Foundation, will do everything we can to see that this is our best season yet. Beyond 2025, it will be up to whichever organization decides to apply for another grant cycle.

SCAF: Is it important to be culturally conscious when planning a public event?

Christi: It is important to be culturally conscious at all times; from a quick grocery run, traveling to a new place, to planning a public event. If we don't carry the consciousness of our differences as humans with us everywhere, we're doing it wrong.

SCAF: As challenging times approach, how important do you believe the Levitt Amp Series is moving forward?

Christi: I think free, community events like Levitt are important no matter the time in history. We never know what is coming. Sonya Massey's murder was a shock to our community. Being a space where people could process, protest, share their grief, and experience joy was very important to us. Without community-focused organizations and programming, members of the community lack outlets and resources to go through the expected and the unexpected together.

Emily: Very important! It brings a sense of belonging and solidarity to all those that attend because ALL are welcome.





Volunteers for Levitt Amp. Back row: Ashlyn Yates, Philip Cooper, Anthony Hamilton, Joe Feiden, Dave Leonatti, Emily Belletire, Bill Steele, Katrina Grimes. Front row: Daniel Walden, Christi Walden, Cindy Feiden, Hailey Higgins, Alaina Taylor, Bella Szabo, Jenna Broom & Monica Zanetti. Zach Adams & Scott Troehler are not pictured.

SCAF: Levitt Amp is more than just concerts, we have food, dancing, makers, anything you'd like to add?

Emily: Currently, we are pleased with the programming. We would like to add a more active kids corner, which we did have a few times this past year with the foam party and some sponsors that brought interactive fun for the kids.

Christi: Don't forget the various non-profits and community service organizations that also set up the "Community Row" tents at the Series. Their involvement has bolstered the interaction of our crowds immensely. Giving them a FREE platform to inform on volunteer opportunities and services offered to those who need it is one thing we've added that I am very proud of. We hope to grow the list of those able to participate in 2025.

SCAF: Understanding what the people want must be challenging, how have you found success?

Emily: Doing our best and letting the people do the rest.

Christi: What she said! :)

We read their emails and comments and talk about them. Did anyone notice there were more porta-potties after the first show this year? Someone else emailed about people putting up canopies. That is not a battle we are going to fight

for a couple of reasons. One, there is plenty of space on the lawn where the view isn't obstructed. Two, some people putting up those canopies NEED protection from the sun. I've seen newborns to the elderly under the shade of a tent. We have to be conscious that for some people it's more than just a convenience. When it comes to the fun stuff - we try to think and listen creatively. Sometimes it just comes down to is it something we think people will enjoy or not and/or is it something that is in our capacity to make happen. In the end, people want a safe space with positive energy and we are all for giving that every week.

SCAF: If you could book any act to surprise the crowd, who would it be?

Emily: Good question. Within budget and reason? or dream act? Of course, big name bands would be great, but given our lawn size and budget it's out of the question. We'll have to think about this one. Any recommendations? Send us an email!

A huge thank you to Christi and Emily for taking the time to share their inspiring stories with the Springfield Cultural Arts Foundation Magazine for giving us a glimpse into their world. Comprehending the massively successful series is run by volunteers is both impressive and inspiring. Monica and Jeremy, SCAF founders, can confirm

and have enjoyed a front row seat to the efforts required to put on the concerts! Why? Because they've participated as one of several "Makers" via their business Wild Rose Artisan Boutique. Each week they joined other local talents to provide shopping options for attendees.

For more information or to get involved this important "bridge" year which will be critical to continuing the beloved concerts, please visit <https://levitt.org/amp-springfield-il/> and/or the emails shared at the top of the article. 🌸



Jeremy Reed is father to two High School age children who attend Springfield High School. Jeremy enjoys creative projects, writing, and graphic design. Married to local artist and business owner,

Monica Zanetti, Jeremy can be found helping setup, move, and merchandising all things Wild Rose and Springfield Cultural Arts Foundation. Professionally, Jeremy Reed is the Deputy Director of the Division of Real Estate for the State of Illinois. He has enjoyed working to serve the people of Illinois since joining the state in 2017. Prior, Jeremy has worked in several industries ranging from Telecom to Retail Operations.

Building Bridges Through Art and Culture

by Daisy Contreras



Kristen Chiaro, Julie Dailey, Angela Griffin, Jacqueline Reed, Nancy King, Penny Zimmerman-Wills, Nicholas Reed, Jeremy Reed, Elisabeth Bandy, Mónica Zanetti.

Photo by Chris Wills

Monica Zanetti is always on the lookout for things that might be missing in her community. When she zeroes in on something, she often can't let it go. "I have a vision, and then I go and create it," she says.

That's how the mixed-media artist and entrepreneur approaches life. In 2020, she took ownership of the Wild Rose boutique in downtown Springfield, continuing to hold space for artists to showcase their art and make it accessible. The boutique also became her refuge, as she found ways to ease some of the loneliness she felt after relocating from Chicago with her family in 2018. "Wild Rose was my savior," Monica says. "It allowed me to do everything I loved: give back to my community and do my art at the same time."

It also brought people together. Wild Rose became a gathering space where Monica could share her Mexican heritage. With her family and close friends ready to help, Monica began hosting events at the store, like the Dia de Los Muertos altar, set up with candles, cempasuchil flowers, and traditional foods to honor loved ones who have passed away. And each December during the holiday season, she'll host a posada—complete with singing and special holiday recipes to try.

"I want people to understand our (Mexican) culture beyond just the basics," she says. "It's about creating memories, celebrating our heritage, and sharing that with everyone in the community."

"It felt like I was contributing to something bigger than myself."

Monica's career has been a series of groundbreaking moments, constantly shaping her identity and her work. But she points to the year 2000 as being pivotal. That year, she helped organize what would become the first Latin Grammys in Los Angeles. In the days leading up to the event, she drove artists and musicians around different venues and festivals. "It was empowering," she recalls. "It felt like I was contributing to something bigger than myself."

Growing up in Alameda, California in the 80s, she didn't always get to see many people of Latinx heritage in positions of power or represented in many spaces—like the artists at the Latin Grammys she grew up admiring, but who were not given exposure in mainstream media.

Now, when little kids see her and realize she owns a store, it's a big deal for them. "They're surprised because they don't often see people like us owning businesses. And for me, that's exactly why I do what I do. If you see it, you can believe it."

"There's so much art here. So many great musicians, poets, and artists, but we need a space to showcase that,"



Last year, Monica and her team realized they were outgrowing their space at Wild Rose, especially with the Springfield community having so much to offer.

“There’s so much art here. So many great musicians, poets, and artists, but we need a space to showcase that,” Monica shares.

The Springfield Cultural Arts Foundation was the answer. In October 2024, it became a 501(c)3 organization with a mission to provide a dedicated platform for artists of all backgrounds to showcase their talents, while also bridging the cultural gaps between the diverse communities in Springfield. The foundation will open doors for grants and sponsorships to help initiatives come to life.

One of those planned initiatives is an annual festival. It will be a day of music, dance, food, and conversation, bringing together various cultural groups — Indian, Korean, Latinx, and more. To make this and many other events come together, the Springfield Cultural Arts Foundation is looking for strong members to lead its board and ensure the group sticks closely to its mission.

Monica acknowledges that this is only the beginning, but with local author book signings, a Springfield Youth Performance story time, and arts and crafts sessions already underway, from the outside, it may look like the foundation was always there.

“The work comes easy to me,” she says with a smile. “People tell me to slow down, but I just love doing it. I want to keep going. Now, I just need the extra help.” 🌸



Daisy Contreras is an audio documentarian and communications professional. She called Springfield home between 2016 and 2019 while covering the Illinois legislature as a reporter for the local radio station. Daisy went on to report extensively on immigration and labor issues for national news outlets before coming back to Illinois. She lives in Chicago with her two cats, Paquita and Benito.



PHOTO BY ANGEL MEDINA



Wild Rose Artisans Gallery & Boutique

115 N 6th Street, Springfield, IL 62701
217-572-1884 • WildRoseArtisans.com



Welcome to Wild Rose Artisans Gallery & Boutique, your ultimate destination for a burst of creativity and local charm! Tucked away in the lively heart of Downtown Springfield, just a hop, skip, and a jump from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library, our vibrant gallery is home to the breathtaking works of 20 talented local artists. But wait, there's more! We also offer artsy boutique clothing, vintage items and accessories that will have you strutting your stuff with flair.

For years, we've been your friendly neighborhood cheerleaders, championing creativity and artistic expression in our community. My mission? To play matchmaker between artists and art aficionados while curating a fabulous collection you won't find anywhere else! Our amazing team shares this vision, each sprinkling their unique magic — from gallery workshops to helping you discover that perfect piece that speaks to your soul.

Wild Rose began as a dream to support local talent, and wow, has it bloomed! We've created a beautiful community

hub where artistry and craftsmanship shine bright.

Our mission is straightforward yet impactful: to uplift and empower local artists while giving our community access to one-of-a-kind art and fashion treasures. We're all about weaving a rich cultural tapestry in our area and supporting those who contribute their creativity to it.

What fuels my inspiration the most? The incredible artists themselves! Their passion and creativity ignite a fire in me to create a space where their work can dazzle and be celebrated by all.

Speaking of talent, let's give a big shoutout to our fabulous 2025 artists: Monica Zanetti, Jeremy Reed, Nicholas Reed, Annette Johnson, Felicia Olin, Penny Zimmerman-Wills, Carol Weems, Destuni Tank, Jessie Unthank, and Julie Dailey! We also have amazing mixed media artists like Alex Rossi and Matt Pryer, stunning jewelry designers such as Veronica Espina, Debbie Riefler, Destuni Tank, and the talented John Siez showcasing beautiful pottery. And let's not forget Sookyung Suh with her incredible skincare line, textile artists Jose Ochoa and Fran Keeney, and the masterful woodworking by Norm Koerner and Jack Paciolla! This is just a glimpse of the creative magic swirling in our gallery!

Our fantastic artists have generously donated items that were auctioned off, with all proceeds going directly to support local recovery efforts. Join us in making a difference while soaking up the vibrant atmosphere of our gallery!

What truly warms my heart is witnessing the joy on people's faces when they find that perfect piece of art or clothing that resonates with them. It's all about connecting people with art and building a sense of community that feels like home!

To our fabulous community: your support means the world! Whether you pop in for a visit, share our mission, or simply spread the word about the magic of local art, every little gesture helps us continue our journey of supporting our talented artists.

We're also super proud to participate in the Downtown Springfield Inc., Levitt Amp Concert Series, and Holiday Walks, among other fantastic events! Plus, we host monthly workshops covering small business tips, art techniques, and fun social gatherings to keep the creative juices flowing!

Want to get involved? Swing by our gallery, join us for a workshop, or even volunteer for our exciting events! We're always on the lookout for enthusiastic supporters who want to help promote local talent.

We're all about connecting, collaborating, and celebrating the amazing artists in our midst. So don't be shy — reach out! Together, we can keep the creative vibes flowing and uplift one another. Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey! 🌸

Penny Zimmerman-Wills
and Monica Zanetti.
PHOTO BY KATE SPENCER.





"Gertrude" by Christy Freedman



painting by Jessie Unthank



flower art by Jose Ochoa



Cocoa with Clara

An Enchanting Afternoon of Storytelling

November 30, 2024 at Wild Rose Artisans Gallery & Boutique

The Springfield Cultural Arts Foundation, in collaboration with the Springfield Youth Performance Group, recently hosted a delightful event that captured the hearts of attendees of all ages — “Cocoa with Clara.” Upon arrival, guests were greeted by the inviting scent of warm cocoa, setting the stage for a whimsical afternoon filled with magic and imagination.

At the heart of the event was Clara, the cherished character from the classic tale “The Nutcracker.” As she took center stage, the audience was spellbound by her storytelling, transporting them into a world of sugarplum fairies and dancing toys.

While Clara shared her enchanting narrative, children were invited to unleash their creativity by coloring their very own nutcracker ornaments, adding a hands-on element to the experience.

“Cocoa with Clara” not only celebrated the art of storytelling but also fostered connections among families, friends, and local art lovers. This event beautifully blended creativity, culture, and community spirit, making it a magical day. 🌸





"Springfield Capital" by Monica Zanetti



"Goddess of a Growth" by Monica Zanetti



"Adelita Monarch of the Revolution" by Monica Zanetti. Photos of paintings by Tabitha Bock.

Just Like Lala's FAMOUS FLOUR TORTILLAS

By "Lisita" Jimenez Bandy

Walking into my Lala's house was always heartwarming when the smell of her famous tortillas filled the air. These were made by the DOZENS because we could never get enough of them.

When we got older, she would have our plastic bag with at least a dozen, wrapped in wax paper, to go.

I was the only grandchild to learn how to make these until about five years ago, when she taught one of my younger cousins. None of her daughters, including my mom, were ever taught. She said, "because they would just get in the way, so it was easier to just not teach them!" She had nine kids, by the way.

I have since taught both of my boys how to make them and started my granddaughter's lessons by having her roll them out at age 5.

I hope you enjoy these as much as we do. My favorite fillings: peanut butter, tuna salad, papas con chorizo, just about anything!

Ingredients

- 3 cups good quality AP flour (Bob's Red Mill or King Arthur's)
- 2 tbsp baking powder
- 1 tbsp salt
- 3/4 cup vegetable shortening
- 1 1/2 cups HOT water

Directions

In a large mixing bowl, add first three ingredients and mix well with whisk.

Incorporate shortening into flour mixture until flour resembles coarse sand with very few pebble-sized lumps.

Slowly add hot water while continuously mixing with free hand. Add 1/2 cup at a time until dough becomes one cohesive ball. If the dough is still dry after adding the water, add a tablespoon more at a time while constantly kneading.

Once the dough and water are well incorporated, knead for 5-7 minutes until you achieve a nice, smooth, round ball, that, when pressed, slowly bounces back to shape.

Cover with bowl upside down over the dough ball. (Masa)

Let rest for 25-30 minutes.

After resting, make equal sized balls (slightly larger than golf balls, but smaller than baseballs). Cover with towel or parchment paper and let rest for an additional 20 minutes.

While your "testales"/dough balls are resting, heat up your griddle (comal) on med high heat.

After testales have rested, roll each one out and cook 15-20 seconds on each side and stack on a separate plate, or in a towel-lined bowl.

About me

As a San Francisco native and current transplant to Central Illinois, I am so excited to bring you recipes and the stories behind them while sharing a little bit about my culture.

Growing up in San Francisco, I was exposed to so many cultures and so much delicious food. My culinary journey began a simple one: homemade dishes from New Mexico and Texas made by my maternal grandmother, Carmen aka Lala, as we so affectionately called her. So many memories of her kitchen smells come rushing back each time I make one of her family-famous dishes, most especially her delicious homemade flour tortillas.

My mother took my sister and me to different restaurants growing up, including "fancy" ones where we were exposed to dishes outside of Lala's kitchen. Her brother, my Uncle Gilbert (Uncle Bert as we called him) was the first (and only) family member to become a chef, receiving training at the California Culinary Academy. He would eventually take me under his wing as a sous and prep chef both in an actual restaurant and at home.

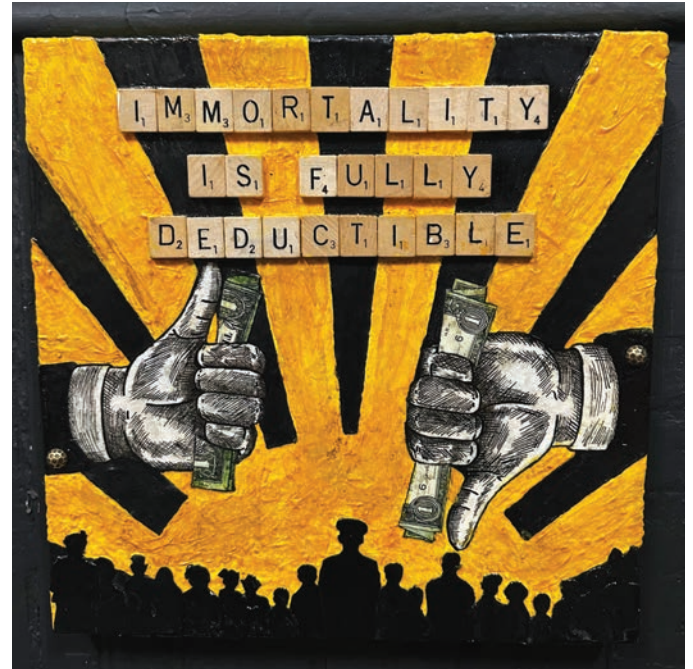
Since moving to Central Illinois, I have expanded my abilities to include cuisine from other cultures: Chinese, Italian, Filipino, to name a few, mostly out of necessity. When I couldn't find establishments that made the dishes I fell in love with back home, I taught myself to make them on my own.

I hope you will enjoy my recipes and I am excited to share what these dishes mean to me. 🌸





"Forest dancing" by Teri Moore
Layered mixed media drawing on paper and duralar mounted on wood



"Immortality" by Alex Rossi



"Old State Capital" by Monica Zanetti

SAVi Skin:

Holistic Korean Skincare for Modern Wellness

by Sookyung Suh, PhD

In South Korea, skincare is more than a daily routine—it is an art form rooted in the holistic care of one's overall health and well-being. Korean skincare emphasizes that healthy skin reflects a healthy life, advocating for gentle, natural products and multi-step routines. This approach integrates practices that nurture not only the skin but also the body and spirit, recognizing the deep connection between external beauty and internal balance. A key element of this philosophy is using natural, nutrient-rich ingredients like green tea, honey, and rice, cherished for generations for their restorative properties.

As someone raised in this tradition, I've always understood the importance of a holistic approach to self-care. With this philosophy in mind, I created SAVi Skin—a product line inspired by Korean skincare principles designed to bring this transformative approach to individuals who value mindful self-care. Skincare can be much more than a vanity ritual—it's a way to honor our health, traditions, and nature's beauty.

SAVi Skin was born out of love and necessity. My journey began as a mother seeking a solution for my eldest daughter's sensitive skin and eczema. Watching her discomfort inspired me to create gentle yet effective products that harness the wisdom of Korean skincare and other ancient healing traditions. In addition, the famous "10-step Korean skincare routine" felt too time-consuming for this busy working mother. So, I simplified the process into three manageable steps: a gentle face wash, a moisturizing lotion, and, occasionally, an oil serum or sugar scrub. What started as a personal mission quickly evolved into a labor of love, blending the science of skincare with the art of holistic wellness. That's why I used the name SAVi using my daughters' and my initials.

Good skin begins with good habits. Proper hydration, quality sleep, regular exercise, good posture, and a balanced diet are fundamental to radiant, resilient skin. Living in colder climates, my family also relies on humidifiers and herbal teas during winter to combat dryness and preserve skin health.

As a full-time researcher and educator in medical education, I've immersed myself



in studying ancient healing ingredients. The power of botanicals such as arnica, calendula, rose, green tea, and mint became central to my formulations. One of the most transformative parts of this journey was learning about cold infusion—a slow process that gently extracts the essence of these natural ingredients. This method taught me patience, respect for nature, and the value of time in creating something truly extraordinary. My mantra became: "Nature doesn't hurry, yet everything is accomplished."

Crafting each SAVi Skin product feels like curating a collection of nature's goodness. The slow, meticulous method ensures that the final products are as potent and nourishing as the ingredients deserve. Knowing what goes into my food has always been important to me and my family, and I approach skincare ingredients with

the same philosophy—studying every component carefully.

Despite the growing interest and demand for SAVi Skin, I've chosen to keep it a local, word-of-mouth business to maintain the integrity and quality of each product while balancing my full-time work in medical education. You can find SAVi Skin at Wild Rose Artisans downtown, where it has become a favorite for those seeking gentle, effective skincare solutions.

SAVi Skin is more than a product line—it's a testament to the journey of care, patience, and tradition. It invites you to embrace the art of holistic self-care, where skincare becomes a mindful ritual that nurtures the body, soul, and spirit. For me, it's a way to honor my South Korean roots and share the beauty and wisdom of these traditions with my community. 🌸

The Wrap

By Cindy Ladage

My eyes have seen the full moon
The blood red sky at morn.
The rising of the early sun
And dew upon the corn.

The years are passing
Like laundry flapping on a line
Time is flying faster
Than cicada's shrill whine.
The years have turned my hair
Grey and put lines upon my face

I get by day-by day
With God's amazing grace.
If I live another decade
I can't imagine what I'll see
Drones flying carrying people
High about the tree.

AI can write
A book alone
You can talk on a watch
Without a phone.
Wonders to me
are nature based.
God's love across
My husband's face.
The softness of cat's soft fur
The hummingbird's
Winged whirr.
My days are fading

Like soft denim jeans
I'm going home
Is what that means.
Like a Christmas Day parade
We shout
The loud noises
Bright lights about.
Cataclysmic
end in store
One day,
I'll just be no more.
Love on Earth
Cannot contend
With Heaven's love
My happy end!



"Frenchie Phantom" by Kerry Farrel

Art is Business Too!

Local Group Benefits Women Entrepreneurs

by Kelly Gust

The Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois (WE-CI) offers numerous advantages for women business owners in our area. Many artists can struggle to think of their passion as “business” but WE-CI is dedicated to empowering women who own a business, sell a product or service, or even “side-hustle.” If you’re looking for a fun and supportive community to help you take your business to the next level, consider joining WE-CI. By participating in WE-CI, members gain access to a supportive community, educational resources, and a platform to showcase their products and services. I’ve been a member of WE-CI for 5 years, and have served in several positions on the board of directors.

Education and Empowerment

WE-CI places a strong emphasis on education. The organization hosts monthly meetings (typically at lunch or an after-hours social) featuring engaging speakers who address topics relevant to success in business such as presentation skills, marketing, and sales. These topics provide members with innovative strategies and practical solutions to common challenges faced by women entrepreneurs.

Networking and Community Support

One of the most significant benefits of joining WE-CI is the opportunity to connect with like-minded women who share similar experiences and challenges. Networking fosters a sense of belonging and provides a platform for members to share their stories, offer support, and collaborate on various initiatives. This camaraderie not only enhances personal growth but also opens doors to potential business partnerships and opportunities. When I first started my human resources consulting business (HR Full Circle), the WE-CI community was supportive and helped me get connected to opportunities!

Access to Resources and Mentorship

Membership in WE-CI grants access to a wealth of resources, including mentorship opportunities, business directories, annual awards and business development grants. Experienced members often serve as mentors, offering guidance and sharing insights that can help newer entrepreneurs navigate the complexities of starting and growing a business.



Annual Women’s Business Showcase

Our flagship annual event, the Women’s Business Showcase, serves as a venue for members to exhibit their products and services to the Springfield community. The annual Showcase attracts hundreds of attendees, providing excellent exposure for women-owned businesses. On March 13th, WE-CI will host its 5th annual Women’s Business Showcase at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. We anticipate over 350 attendees and will feature more than 60 exhibitors. Such events not only boost visibility but also facilitate meaningful connections with potential clients and collaborators.

Get Involved!

If you’re a female artist looking to expand your network and find a place that can help you succeed, check out the Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois at www.wecispringfield.org 🌸

Kelly Gust is a former WE-CI board member, owner of HR Full Circle Consulting (hrfullcircle.com) and a regular columnist in the Springfield Business Journal. Her “art” is expressed primarily through PowerPoint presentations in business settings.



A monologue

by Shatriya Smith (lymah)

I received an invitation to participate in the Journey 2 Justice project, which involved traveling to Montgomery, Alabama, to visit the Equal Justice Initiative Legacy Museum, National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and the Freedom Sculpture Park. This initiative was supported by a seed grant from the Illinois Innovation Network, Illinois Humanities, Center for Lincoln Studies, Memorial Health, U of I System, and SIUE. Our group's mission was to engage in a formative and reflective experience. I anticipated a deeply emotional journey. In contemplation, I connected with my ancestors and was reminded of the biblical parable of the single set of footprints in the sand.

It became clear that while my perspective was limited and self-centered, my ancestors' presence was also there with me; the journey was ours, not solely mine. My emotions fluctuated from sadness to disgust. I allowed myself to sit with these feelings, to cry openly, and to wail without fear of judgment, capturing my emotional turmoil in raw, pained words. I absorbed the history in a deeply personal way. My spirit is wearied by the cruelty and injustice I've learned about.



I am filled with anger, disappointment, and horror at the persistent acts of egregious harm that echo into the present. The sensation of metal against my skin, the tears on the faces of the suffering, the blood seeping from wounds, the ache of faltering hope, the hunger pangs—I felt them all. The sense of blood, waste, and fear was overwhelming.

The disdain, I felt it acutely. This journey, though fraught with danger, is far from over. We, as a people who still bear the names given to our enslaved ancestors, continue to see our history marginalized, underappreciated, and undervalued. We offer prayers to a deity unlike us, while enduring substandard treatment from those who claim to be his kin. The quest for true justice persists, even as the legacy of legal lynching and enslavement persists through mass incarceration.

The landscape we navigate suggests a wholeness that remains elusive, as if we're ensnared on a field designed for our subjugation. The audacity of white America to perpetuate this imbalance and inhumanity is staggering. The expectation to acquiesce to the diminishment of my heritage, my lineage, and myself is unacceptable. The notion that accountability is an unwarranted or economically impractical demand is preposterous.

My anger is justified. My disappointment, profound. Yet, I witness the enduring strength that hardship has etched into our very being. The relentless spirit of my forebears, whose struggles have secured even a semblance of justice, fuels my resolve.

My anger propels me to bend the arc of justice, as my ancestors did before me. Those who disregard our American history are, in my eyes, tacit endorsers of supremacy until their deeds prove otherwise.

The atrocities laid bare are harrowing—acts of unspeakable cruelty that defy justification. No authority can rationalize them; no words of sympathy can relegate them to mere history. Only through full recognition and reparations can there be a path forward.

My history is mine to wield in demanding accountability; no permission is required. The continued injustice is recognized immediately and undeniably repeatable. I see the burned bridges of history and remade with delicate lies on top of the bones of our ancestors. My justice takes 500 years with minimal steps. This emotional ambiguity is morally reprehensible, and with these words; My ancestors' reciprocity is not negotiable.

Interview with **SHATRIYA SMITH (IYMAH)**

Executive Director of the Garvey Tubman Cultural Arts and Research Center

By Monica Zanetti

SCAF: Shatriya, can you tell us about your role at the Garvey Tubman Cultural Arts and Research Center and the services you provide to the community?

Shatriya Smith: As the Executive Director of Springfield's Garvey Tubman Cultural Arts and Research Center, I am dedicated to providing services for low-income families and young people ages 5-13. Our focus includes offering music classes and teaching them to become young entrepreneurs. Over the past few years, I've also had the privilege of reciting poetry by Paul Lawrence Dunbar and Amanda Gorman to K-6 graders, which has been a wonderful way to engage young minds with literature. Additionally, I led a team to produce The Underground Railroad Poetry Program, which hosts monthly workshops, open mics, and field trips to foster creativity and expression.

SCAF: You've achieved significant recognition in your field, including being named Springfield Illinois Times "Best Of" Living Author for two consecutive years. What does this recognition mean to you, and how does it influence your work?

Shatriya Smith: Being recognized as Springfield Illinois Times "Best Of" Living Author for two years is truly an honor and a validation of my efforts in community action and educational cultural accessibility. This recognition motivates me to continue advocating for support systems and meaningful dialogue within the community. It reinforces my belief in the importance



of cultural education and the need to strengthen our local support networks, particularly for the youth. I want my work to inspire others and create a lasting impact in our community.

SCAF: Could you share some upcoming events that you are excited about and how they align with your mission in the community?

Shatriya Smith: I am very excited about the Perspectives Art Gallery's Share and Connect: Writers Workshop event, where I look forward to

connecting with other writers and poets to share our experiences and insights. Additionally, I am working on a symposium and workshops for the "Journey to Justice" initiative in April 2025, which aims to reconnect with Illinois history and address the legacy of anti-Black terror. These events are crucial for fostering cultural education, responsibility, and business sustainability in the east side of Springfield, and I am eager to navigate these activities for community growth. 🌸



Woodfire tea pot by Scott Day

Unheeded

By Sianyn Leigh

Bark. Bark. Bark.
But it isn't a dog making such a noise.
It's a man.
Tall. Arrogant. Alpha.
He delivers each word with force and confidence.
His intelligence is above reproach.
His authority unquestionable.
He demands I understand my place.
He screams with face red and blotched,
His voice loud and grating.
Go back into the home.
Stay in your lane.
No one wants to hear your side.
You shouldn't be allowed a choice.
But his words are only so much noise,
like a dog barking at the wind.



"The glorification of frogs" by Diane Deleonardo

Interview with **ALEX ROSSI**

By Monica Zanetti

What initially drew you to mixed media as an artistic medium, and how has your style evolved since you began?*

To be honest, I never thought I was good at art or that someone would be interested in buying something I created for their home. My first canvas was made completely at random, and there was something so natural about the process that it drew me in. At that time, creating art helped ground me. I began with mixed media and assemblage pieces, and since then, I've constantly sought to learn and explore new techniques. Over the years, my journey has taken me from industrial home decor and repurposing/upcycling to creating lamps, woodworking, and metalworking. Fast forward to 2024, and I am now a certified combo-welder and pipefitter.

Describe Your Favorite Material to Work With and How It Contributes to Your Creative Process.

It's difficult to choose just one favorite material, but I find the most joy in transforming old, discarded items — whether it's a rusty tractor grill, a broken trumpet, or vintage cameras — into something new with a purpose. My passion for antiques and architectural salvage significantly influences my ideas and creative process.

How Does the Local Environment Influence Your Art and the Themes You Explore?*

I take every opportunity to source items from local businesses, estates, or even scrap yards. Often, bringing my ideas to life can be challenging, as they may involve creating something that has never been made before or customizing pieces to fit a specific purpose. Whenever I get the chance, I fully indulge in local sourcing, which not only enriches my work but also strengthens my connection to the community. 🌸



Left: A vintage pencil sharpener and yard sticks repurposed into a desk lamp. The one of a kind lamp operates by turning the pencil sharpener knob as if sharpening a pencil.



welded guitar by Alex Rossi



"Mister Something" by Chris Martin



"Goth Moth" by Felicia Olin

Blue Planet

by Judith Nichols

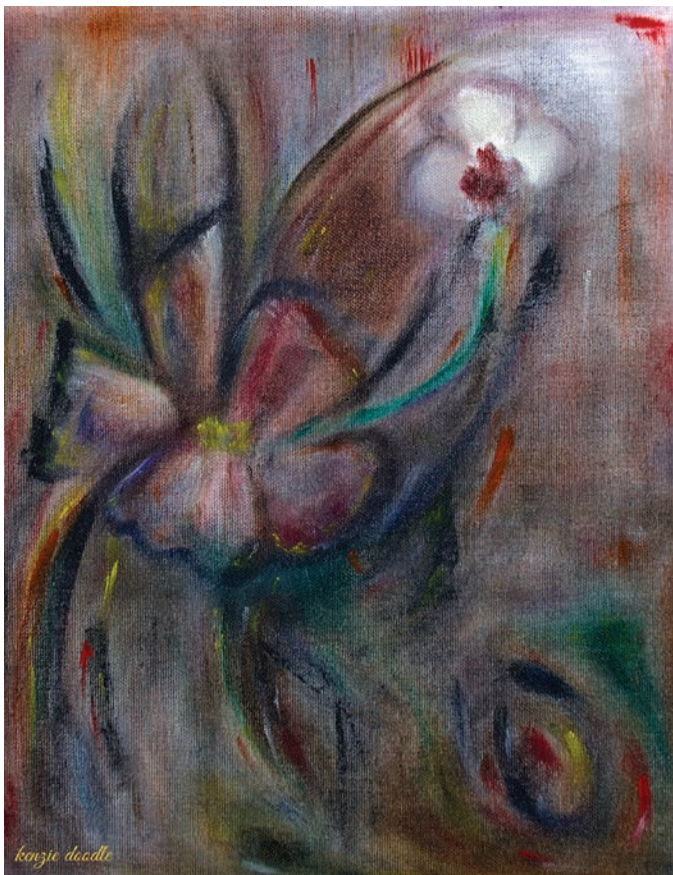
A blue marble flicked too many times by players
with squinting eyes focused on current wins,
so it's a game she loses as her river beds crack
like glass thrown out on curbs or trashed
with yesterday's unread news, stained with
coffee spills.

Mechanical dozers heave the unsalvageables
into fired mountains as we watch like sly children
unable to hide our shameful acts. We stay
oblivious to engine oils, poisonous haze,
and metal scrap as the treatment plant
dragons work overtime at the hearth
on our behalf.

We insist on prayer before our feasts.
Our carbon dioxide breath creeping towards
the skeleton fields of livestock, mass produced.
Like a serial killer in stealth pursuit, we rape
the land
in answer to our immediate gratification needs,
limping to gallows blindfolded against the
crying winds.

This lake is closed! No swimming allowed, but
as the young we live to splash in water infinite.
Like-minded friends quench on enjoyment,
as if tomorrow they die. Push the pedal.
Fill up the tanks. There is no stopping now.
We watch our own adrenaline break the
thermometer's scale! The animals parched, our
fields exhausted, the faucets bleed red; our only
reminders of what once was living now burning
in the science of fact.

Beautiful bounty once, in the speck of an era, but
children rarely remember, unless mother
is on her deathbed or buried. Now! See! In
selfless love, our blue peery, in a bed of black,
keeps shining on, waiting in her antique corset
of diamonds and green stars.



"March" by Mackenzie Hostetler



"Plausible Perfection" by Yocius Kristyn



"Old State Capital" by Julie Dailey



"Golden Fiinches at Home" by Yocius Kristyn



"Polyglot Monotheism, an Abrahamic Mandala" by James Bockmier



"Portrait of my Son – Journey on Trojan Horse" by Kitt St. Johns

Bodymorphia of a Living Clay Figure

By Severyn Beekman

My body is a sculpture
shaped without a mold
There is art in every detail
curvature and fold

The facial lines mark age and time
on the surface of my skin
Beauty knows no flaws
from the outside looking in

My body is the earth
morphed from ancient clay
Holding firm my imperfections
a self-loving raw display

My vessel of expression
when dance takes place of words
letting my self-loathing dissolve
into a blur

The parts of me up for debate
For those that feel inclined
My body shouldn't be a choice
unless that choice is mine



"Essence of Light" by Mary Ellen Strack



"Mrs. Hippo" by Christy Freedman



"Whisling Lincoln" by Annette Johnson



painting by Teri Moore
Layered mixed media drawing on paper and duralar mounted on wood

Consider the Lilies of the Field

You are not unlike the grasses
or the ducks or the swans
You are not unlike the trees
or the seas or the soft things
that carpet and crawl upon the earth

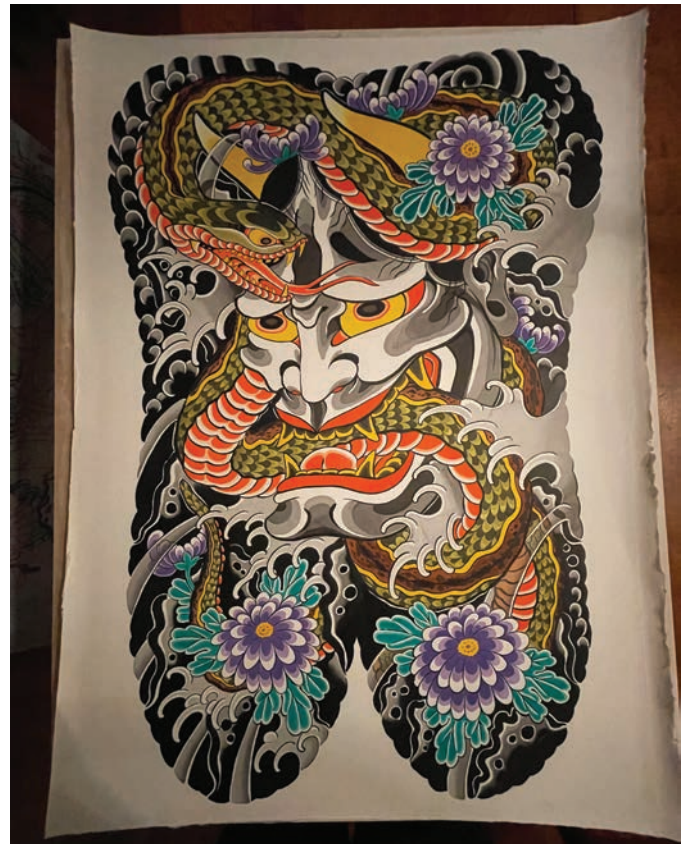
Just as they do, you too
need the shine of our splendid sun
and the waters that cycle and soothe
you need shelter from harsh things
and most of all you need
a place and a means to grow

and you do not grow from bread alone
but from love and from light
and from learning and from stories
from imagination and from wonder
from a deep and insatiable curiosity

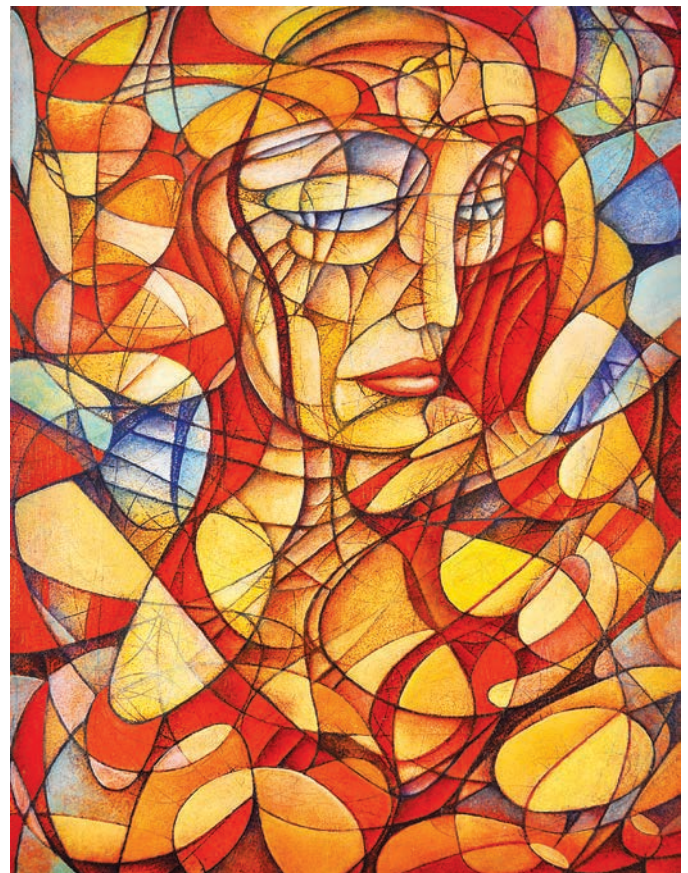
My dear, my dear, you need to be safe
and you need to eat well
and you need to walk hand
in hand with someone you care
about and with someone who
cares about taking care of you

and you need, yes, I promise,
and I swear this is true,
you need to read book
after book after book

–David Briggs



“Hannya X Hebi X Kiku” by Alex Owen
Water crashing down on a Hannya entangled with a snake;
chrysanthemums bloom among the rocks



“Monika’s new red dress” by Rick Taylor

Directory and Map of Downtown Businesses



**This information provided by
Downtown Springfield, Inc.**

Downtown Springfield, Inc. (DSI) is the capital city's non-profit dedicated to increasing the economic and cultural vitality of our welcoming city center, business district, and growing mixed-used neighborhood.

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Shopping

- Abe's Old Hat Antiques & Gifts | 111 N. 6th
- Ascend Cannabis Dispensary | 628 E. Adams
- Bloom Wine Bar & Florals | 2 S. Old State Capitol Plaza
- Books on the Square | 427 E. Washington
- Card*ologist | 229 S. 6th
- Ceramics Made by Rosie | 412 E. Monroe
- Corrine's Closet | 223 S. 6th
- Creative Reuse Marketplace | 122 S. 4th
- Daisy Jane's | 9 W. Old State Capitol Plz
- Dumb Records | 418 E. Monroe
- Electric Quill Tattoos | 100 N. 6th
- Flea Market to Fabulous | 816 S. Spring
- Fly Fashion Lifestyle | 424 E. Monroe
- Good Heart Tattoos | 414 E. Monroe
- Itty Bitty Fashion Trunk | 403 E. Adams
- Isringhausen Imports | 229 E. Jefferson
- Kari Bedford Photography | 314 E. Monroe
- The Keep Store | 314 E. Adams
- Lincoln Plaza Galleria | 4 S. Old State Capitol Plz
- Marian Center | 313 E. Monroe
- Murphy's Loft | 210 S. 6th
- Prairie Archives | 522 E. Adams
- Prairie State Hemp | 460 E. Washington
- Resource One | 321 E. Adams
- Richards and Stehman | 317 E. Monroe
- Sangamon Watches | 206 S. 6th
- Springfield Clock Shop | 629 E. Washington
- Springfield Vintage | 215 S. 5th
- Star Graphics & Media | 621 E. Monroe
- Studio on 6th | 215 S. 6th
- The Sumac Shop at Dana Thomas House | 301 E. Lawrence
- True Colors Floral | 3 W. Old State Capitol Plz
- Velvet & Rosemary | 521 E. Washington
- Whimsy Tea Company | 316 E. Adams
- Wild Rose Artisans Boutique | 115 N. 6th
- Willow & Birch Salon | 521 E. Washington



Coffee & More

- Arrowroot Coffee Co. | 625 E. Adams
- The Cats' Pyjamas Cat Café | 524 E. Capitol
- Custom Cup Coffee | 319 E. Monroe
- Golden Hour Bake House | 11 W. Old State Capitol Plz
- Starbucks | 700 E. Adams
- The Wakery | 5 W. Old State Capitol Plz
- Whimsy Tea Company | 316 E. Adams
- Wm. Van's Cafe | 107 W. Cook



Salon & Spa

- Hair of the Dog Bar/bershop | 323 E. Monroe
- Honei Chayil Salon | 305 S. 4th
- Moxie Massage | 605 E. Washington
- Smokin' Mirror Salon | 617 E. Monroe
- Uptown Looks Salon | 101 N. 5th
- Willow & Birch Salon | 521 E. Washington



Fitness

- PhysioTherapy Professionals | 306 E. Adams
- Pure Performance Fitness | 320 S. 4th
- YMCA of Springfield | 601 N. 4th



Arts & Culture

- Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum | 212 N. 6th
- Hoogland Center for the Arts | 420 S. 6th
- Illinois State Museum | 502 S. Spring
- Kidzeum of Health and Science | 412 E. Adams
- Legacy Theatre | 101 E. Lawrence
- SAA Collective | 105 N. 5th
- Sangamon Watercolor Society | 420 S. 6th
- Springfield Area Arts Council | 420 S. 6th
- Springfield Art Association | 700 N. 4th
- The Pharmacy Gallery & Art Space | 623 E. Adams



Dining

- 6th Street Cafe | 214 S. 6th
- Ad Astra Wine Bar and Market | 308 E. Adams
- Anvil & Forge Distillery | 619 E. Washington
- Aunt Lou's Soul Food | 524 E. Monroe
- Beelzebunz | 213 S. 5th
- Bloom Wine Bar & Florals | 2 S. Old State Capitol Plz
- Boone's Saloon | 301 W. Edwards
- Brewhaus | 617 E. Washington
- Cold Stone Creamery | 124 S. 6th
- The Globe Tavern | 701 E. Adams
- Golden Hour Bake House | 11 W. Old State Capitol Plz
- The Grille at City Centre | 700 E. Adams
- Head West Sub Stop | 530 E. Capitol
- Incredibly Delicious | 925 S. 7th
- Jerk Shop Go | 219 S. 5th
- Jimmy Johns | 219 S. 6th
- Joe Gallina's Pizza | 432 E. Monroe
- La Piazza Cucina Italiana | 220 S. 6th
- Lindsay's | 701 E. Adams
- Loukinen's on 4th | 517 S. 4th
- Maid Rite Sandwich | 118 N. Pasfield
- Maldander's Restaurant | 222 S. 6th
- Maryflor | 2 W. Old State Capitol Plz
- Obed & Isaac's Micro Brewery | 500 S. 6th
- Replay Lounge | 217 S. 5th
- Saputo's | 801 E. Monroe
- Subway | 607 E. Adams
- A Taste of Seoul | 406 E. Adams
- Third Shift Kitchen | 308 E. Adams
- The Wakery | 5 W. Old State Capitol Plz
- Whimsy Tea Company | 316 E. Adams
- Wm. Van's Cafe | 107 W. Cook



Drinks

- The Alamo | 115 N. 5th
- Ad Astra Wine Bar and Market | 308 E. Adams
- Anvil & Forge Distillery | 619 E. Washington
- Aunt Lou's Soul Food | 524 E. Monroe
- Bloom Wine Bar & Florals | 2 S. Old State Capitol Plz
- Boone's Saloon | 301 W. Edwards
- Butternut Hut | 106 W. Jefferson
- Buzz Bomb Brewing Co. | 406 E. Adams
- Brewhaus | 617 E. Washington
- Celtic Mist Pub | 117 S. 7th
- Clique | 411 E. Washington
- D.H. Brown's | 231 E. Monroe
- Floyd's Thirst Parlor | 210 S. 5th
- The Gin Mill | 235 S. 5th
- The Globe Tavern | 701 E. Adams
- The Grille at City Centre | 700 E. Adams
- Hair of the Dog Bar/bershop | 323 E. Monroe
- J.P. Kelly's Pub | 300 E. Adams
- Loukinen's on 4th | 517 S. 4th
- Obed & Isaac's The Cidery | 503 S. 7th
- Obed & Isaac's Micro Brewery | 500 S. 6th
- Replay Lounge | 217 S. 5th
- Terra Ferment | 204 S. 6th
- Top Hat Lounge | 101 E. Adams
- Trish & Mary's Public House | 107 W. Cook, Ste A
- Whiskey Jack's | 430 E. Monroe



Lodging

- Carpenter Street Hotel | 525 N. 6th
- Inn at 835 | 835 S. 2nd
- Mansion View Inn & Suites | 529 S. 4th
- Pasfield House Inn | 525 S. Pasfield
- President Abraham Lincoln Springfield | 701 E. Adams
- State House Inn | 101 E. Adams
- Wyndham Springfield City Centre | 700 E. Adams

Events & Holidays

Spring

St. Patrick's Day Parade
Lincoln Presidential Half Marathon
Fat Ass 5K
Springfield Old Capitol Art Fair
Springfield PrideFest

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Updated February 2025

Summer

Levitt AMP Springfield Music Series
History Comes Alive
Juneteenth
Paint the Street
Downhome Music Festival

Fall

Friends of the Market Street Dinner
International Route 66 Mother Road Festival
Halloween Parade

Winter

Old Capitol Holiday Walks
Springfield Jaycee's Holiday Lights Parade

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- Guide: Jen DeJong, Sicilian Encounters
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