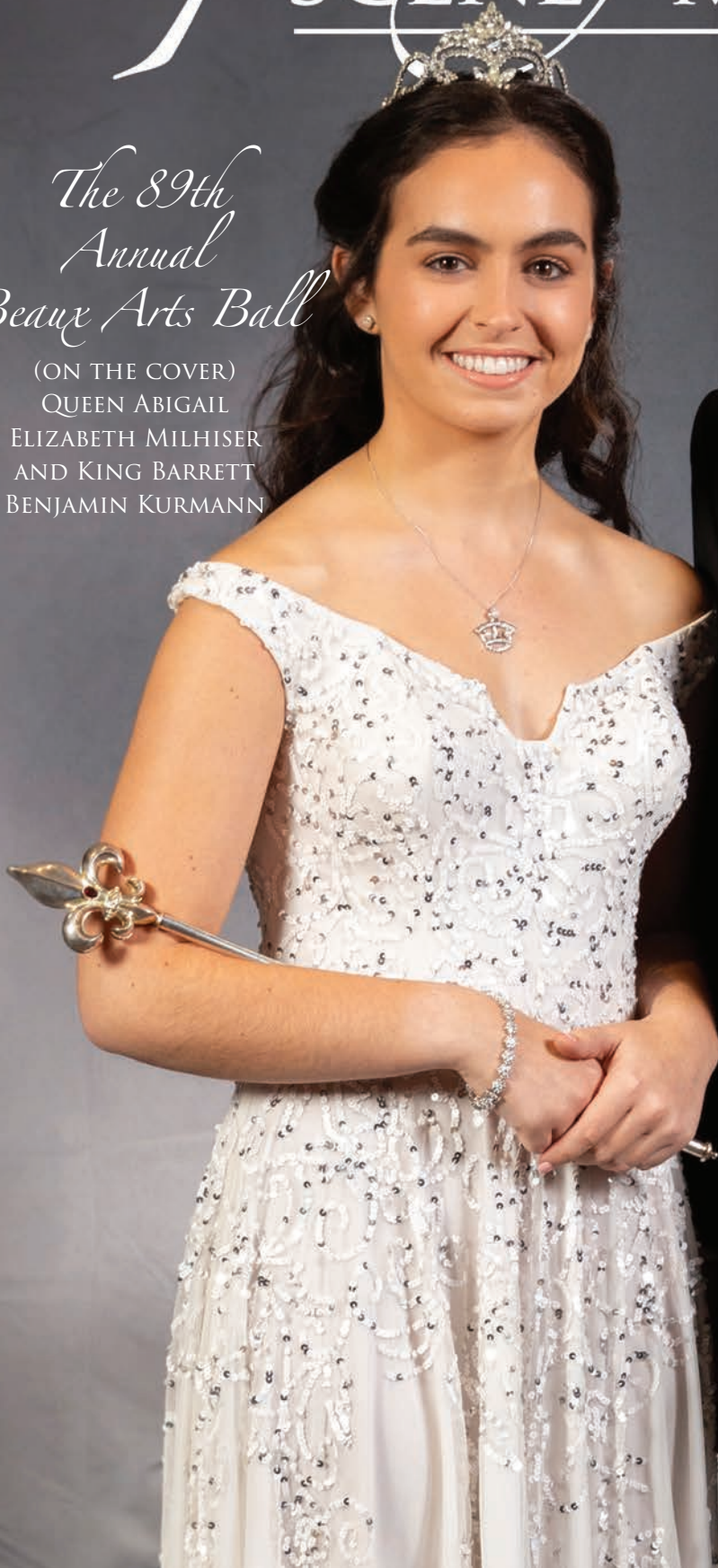


# Springfield

## SCENE MAGAZINE

*The 89th  
Annual  
Beaux Arts Ball*

(ON THE COVER)  
QUEEN ABIGAIL  
ELIZABETH MILHISER  
AND KING BARRETT  
BENJAMIN KURMANN



*Rochelle Hartman*  
DIRECTOR  
LINCOLN LIBRARY

*Bryan Rives*  
DIRECTOR  
UIS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

*Brad Hanson*  
MANAGER  
PEASE'S AT BUNN GOURMET

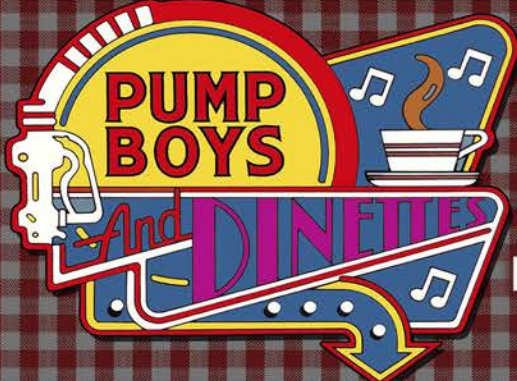
THE MAGIC OF MAUI  
A TRAVEL STORY

*HomeScene*  
A CUSTOM BUILT HOME  
IN ROCHESTER

SPRINGFIELD SCENE MAGAZINE  
2022 Issue No. 1 Vol. 18  
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PRESENTS



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ISSUE NUMBER 1, VOLUME 18

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## BEAUX ARTS BALL

# 18



QUEEN ABIGAIL  
ELIZABETH MILHISER



KING BARRETT  
BENJAMIN KURMANN

PHOTOS BY WARMOWSKI PHOTOGRAPHY

## HOMESCENE

PHOTOS BY MINION MEDIA COMPANY

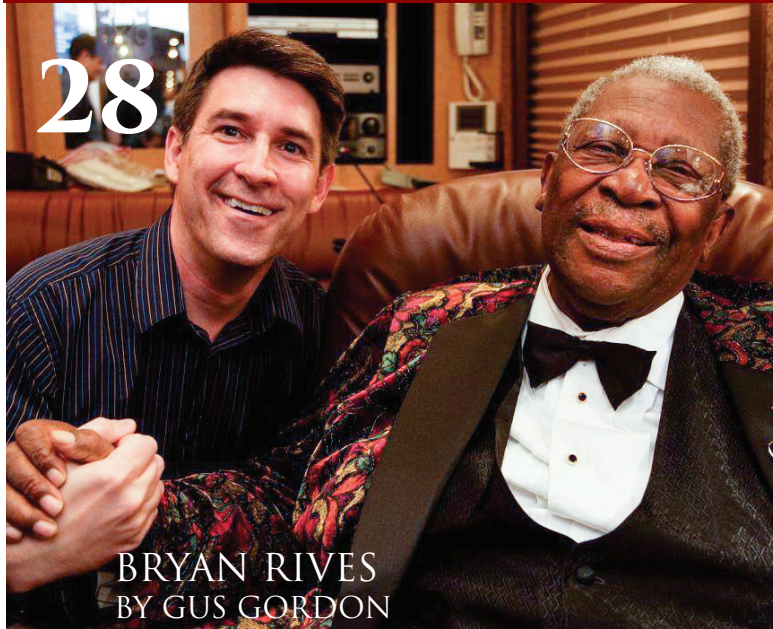
# 34



A CUSTOM  
BUILT HOME IN  
ROCHESTER

## UIS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

# 28



BRYAN RIVES  
BY GUS GORDON

## LINCOLN LIBRARY

# 6



ROCHELLE  
HARTMAN  
DIRECTOR LINCOLN LIBRARY  
BY CINDA KLINKNA

## TRAVEL

## THE MAGIC OF MAUI

BY JULIE STALEY

# 10



## PEASE'S AT BUNN GOURMET

# 47



MEET ME AT THE GABLES



## PUBLISHER'S REMARKS

**The Beaux Arts Ball** is back! After cancelling last year due to the COVID restrictions, the reigning King and Queen honored the supporters of the Springfield Art Association with an event at the Crown Plaza last November.

This elegant event was presided over by **King Barrett Benjamin Kurmann** and **Queen Abigail Elizabeth Milhiser**.

**Rochelle Hartman** is our new director at our city library. She brings a lot of relevant experience to the table. I'm excited to see what she can do with the position. While I was there for her photoshoot I saw a homeless person that I see every week when I have breakfast at Moxo Cafe.

Rochelle knew her story and her name. I was impressed since I knew neither even though I have seen her around downtown for 2 years. Cinda Ackerman Klickna writes a great story on Rochelle.

Most would love to vacation in Hawaii and after reading **Julie Staley's** travel story on her time in Maui, Hawaii, it might move up on your list. It's a beautiful island and her photography skills & story will show & tell you why.

**Bryan Rives** is the director at the UIS Performing Arts Center. He's been in the performing arts business for most of his professional career but always in the background making sure the show goes on. I think you will enjoy reading Gus Gordon's story about Bryan.

**HomeScene** features a beautiful custom built home in Rochester. It's a quality built home by Moughan Builders that would be great for entertaining as well as for a large family. It is in a quiet, safe and family oriented neighborhood.

**Pease's at Bunn Gourmet** is a great place to meet for food, desserts and gifts. You'll have to check out their delicious cocoa bombs.

### IMAGINATION RULES THE WORLD - Attributed to Napoléon Bonaparte

Everyone is talking about the changes in our society as having a special meaning. There are plenty of perspectives to go around. Just like changing the channel on your TV tuner or Internet feed you can find something that resonates with you. If you don't have a position there are plenty of people and groups trying to recruit new members.

Then there are the social media portals that just want to spin you around and fill your mind with entertaining videos, quotes and images so they can figure out how to sell your "likes" to an advertiser who wants to sell you something you probably don't need.

In all this chaos is a common denominator. They want our imagination. They need us to imagine the stories they are telling. They know it is our imagination that controls us. If they can capture our imagination they can lead us where they want us to go. Using fear-based stories is the most common way to get our attention and compliance but it is not the only way.

To make something positive out of all this chaos we simply need to use our intuition and gut instincts to determine if the stories we are imagining are relevant or real. Most will find that if a story doesn't sound right or feel right it probably isn't right and it's time to move on.

We can use our imagination to create a wonderful life as long as we don't give too much of it to those who will use it to manipulate us to their own ends.



*Bill Stots*

PUBLISHER  
[publisher@ss-mag.com](mailto:publisher@ss-mag.com)

# ROCHELLE HARTMAN

DIRECTOR - LINCOLN LIBRARY





# Lincoln Library

Springfield's Public Library

BY CINDA ACKERMAN KLINKNA

Rochelle Hartman had been offered the position as Director of Lincoln Library (the public library, not to be confused with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library) in August of 2019 and was in Springfield looking for a house. She and her son had dinner and then went by the Library. She was well aware that homeless people gathered for the night outside the Library, and that night was no different. Hartman got out of her car, introduced herself to those who were there, and struck up a conversation about her new job and their needs. Several asked if she planned to kick them out.

That has not been her plan. Instead, she has taken time to know the people and hear their stories. Hartman says, "I make it my practice to talk to folks. I have gotten to know people by their first names and have heard the details of the difficulties they have faced. These are resilient people."

Hartman is concerned that many people who visit the Library look at the homeless as "others." She says, "I encourage people to not feel frightened and to not make assumptions. Rather, look at people as people. Just smiling and saying hi goes a long way."

In previous jobs in Bloomington, Illinois and La Crosse, Wisconsin, Hartman had participated in community organizing work to be part of the solution for homelessness in those cities. One of the things that drew her to the Springfield Library position was reading the negative media about the homeless situation. "Lincoln Library

seemed an opportunity to help." She is trying by becoming involved in community discussions and finding ways to offer solutions.

Although one of Hartman's very first jobs out of high school was working at the Normal Library as a shelver, it took her years to discover that library work was her true passion. Her path took twists and turns into various job experiences. She lists them off "a marketing sales person, a beauty salon apprentice, a steakhouse hostess, a prep cook, a blogger, an editorial consultant and a retail worker." In a way these all helped prepare her for having a career in library research; she's been able to draw on her past to help others find information.

After high school she attended Illinois State University (ISU) for two years during which she changed her major three times. She then decided to go to the University of Illinois – Urbana for a writing degree, but after a year that wasn't satisfying. So, she took some time off and then went back to ISU where she earned a BA in Anthropology in 1987. She accepted a position as an administrative assistant in the Provost's office at the university until 1990 when she decided to enroll in the archeological field school for the summer, before discovering that she was pregnant. She says, "Alas, digging in the hot sun is not a great occupation for someone with extreme morning sickness."



*The Sangamon Valley Collection (SVC), located on the third floor of Lincoln Library, provides in-depth resources for the study of Springfield, Illinois, Sangamon County and the ten adjacent counties. The collection, established in 1970, contains materials from the past and present. The Sangamon Valley Collection is a non-circulating collection.*

*Rochelle looking over Library newsletters from early 1900's.*

She was a stay-at-home mom for four years, raising Dex and Claudia. Then in 1994, and separated from her husband, she was hired as a part-time reference assistant at the Bloomington Public Library.

After six-eight weeks on the job, she had an epiphany. "I finally realized what I loved and that I could get paid to be a researcher, a kind of a friendly know-it-all." She enrolled in the University of Illinois Library and Information Services Master's program, worked at the Bloomington Library, and commuted to U of I for her courses, all while raising her kids.

The degree, earned in 1998, led to a position as professional reference librarian at the Bloomington library. Hartman says, "All the times I had been in and out of library work since high school, it had never occur-



*Her favorite pastime is going to the Farmers Market by bicycle which has large baskets for her purchases.*

red to me that this could be a profession. Call me a late bloomer.”

From Bloomington her path led to La Crosse, Wisconsin, in 2006 where she became the Adult Services Manager at the city’s public library. Then, in 2019, she saw the opening for the Springfield Lincoln Library. She says, “I was homesick for Central Illinois. People laugh at me and ask why I would want to come back to this area, after all La Crosse was beautiful – my bedroom window looked out on the bluffs of the Mississippi River – and the people I worked with were amazing, but I wanted to come back.”

She has immersed herself in Springfield. Her favorite pastime is riding her bicycle that has baskets to the Farmer’s Market. She likes meeting the people who sell items as well as those there to buy. She started photographing her purchases. She explains, “Instead of cornucopia, I call it bikeucopia. I prop up my bike,

loaded with the vegetables and other items I purchased, and take a photo. I started challenging myself to see what I could pack on my bike. Pumpkins were the real challenge; I strapped a large pumpkin on my bike with a bungee cord. Then I wondered if I could carry a turkey. It was actually easier than the pumpkins.”

Another photography hobby is called “Coffee at the Lincoln’s.” Hartman stops in at Wm. Van’s, buys a cup of coffee, walks to Lincoln’s Home, and takes a photo of herself drinking coffee. She has also rediscovered old vinyl records and bought herself a turntable so she can listen to the music she liked in high school and college.

Becoming part of the Springfield community is important to Hartman. She has joined the Sunrise Rotary and serves on the board of the Springfield Center for Independent Living.

Hartman has many plans for the public

library even though the pandemic has delayed some of the work. The updated website which sports a new logo has been launched. “Abe has a more fun look. People often confuse Lincoln Library with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and keeping Lincoln in our logo was important, but it needed an update.” Hartman laughs, “Lincoln is certainly loved in Springfield. He was an inspiration to me as I grew up poor with few resources as he did, so his story has always stuck with me.”

The library has also implemented a fine-free model. Hartman says, “We wanted people to have access to online resources and school kids to get books.” Not charging late fees has helped.

There are several goals Hartman has for the library. One is to increase programming and services for teens and strengthen the relationship between the library and teachers. “Everyone says a library should be quiet, but it can almost be too quiet. There needs to be interaction, conversation with people about books and research.” A young adult librarian has been hired, and a teen advisory group has formed as ways to engage kids and teens in programs, book talks, and letting them have a voice in what the library can do for them.

Hartman points to the biggest challenge: the physical space. “We don’t have green space around the library as you find in neighborhood libraries. I have heard people say they mourn the loss of the library branches that were once in various areas of Springfield. We can’t make people come to us so we are looking for opportunities to bring the library to people, maybe through a bookmobile, or pop-up libraries.” The Library currently offers programs, both in person and virtual, and a winter reading program will be offered in January.

When asked what her main focus is, Hartman says, “Outreach.” To her that means reaching out to the homeless, to community organizations, and to people who need access to resources and information, as well as exploring all that Springfield has to offer.

*Cinda Ackerman Klickna has always enjoyed the Lincoln Library and spends many hours in the Sangamon Valley Collection doing research for articles.*





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*Rochelle enjoying a novel by Kim Stanley Robinson, an American writer of science fiction books who is best known for his Mars Trilogy. Lincoln Library has a collection of his books.*

# THE MAGIC OF MAUI

*More than a luxurious tropical destination, Maui speaks to the spirit and the soul in many ways.*

*"I went to Maui to stay a week and remained five. I never spent so pleasant a month before, or bade any place goodbye so regretfully. I have not once thought of business, or care or human toil or trouble or sorrow or weariness, and the memory of it will remain with me always."  
- Mark Twain*

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JULIE STALEY

*Part of a full rainbow, with a faint double rainbow in front of our home in Kapalua. The island of Molokai is across the bay.*

One of the very first words my husband and I ever exchanged when we met were about Maui. We quickly spiraled into a conversation expressing how special Hawaii was through family vacations with our parents. We've traveled extensively throughout our lives, visiting six continents between the two of us, and traveling as far as Fiji to find ultimate paradise. Although we've found each Hawaiian island is sacred with its own special energy, to us nothing compares to Maui. My husband's parents loved it so much they retired on Maui in the 1980s. Today it is our vacation home with our two sons. We've enjoyed plenty of leis, luaus and Mai Tais, but we agree there is something more to the island that keeps us longing to travel 4,000 miles to find true serenity.

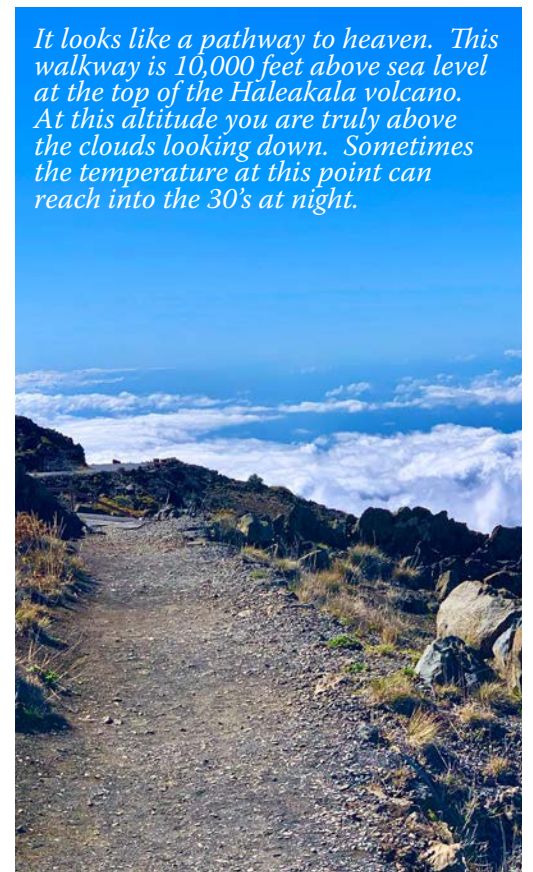
The Hawaiian islands are the most isolated inhabited islands in the world. In Honolulu, on Oahu, people usually arrive by necessity because it has the largest airport on the islands, but Maui is a luxury of the islands. It is no surprise that Maui is one of the most spiritual places on Earth. It is overflowing with sacred energy. Imagine a utopia where you are crowned with rainbows and sunshine, removed from the pressure and negative energy and urgency of everyday life, and allowed to steep in a transformational space of lush green space, clear blue water, and pristine beaches. There is no shortage of drinks with umbrellas but there is more to Maui. Infinitely more. You must pay attention to the Aina (land) and find out what it has to offer. You'll find sacred energy in the people, animals, plants, and rocks. Maui island was originally one large land mass called Maui-Nui. It encompassed seven volcanoes and 5,600 square miles.



*Mark & Julie Staley with Alex and Lucas. Our children mark the third generation in our families to enjoy family time in the Hawaiian islands.*



*Otherworldly lava rocks in Kapalua known as the Dragon's Teeth.*



*It looks like a pathway to heaven. This walkway is 10,000 feet above sea level at the top of the Haleakala volcano. At this altitude you are truly above the clouds looking down. Sometimes the temperature at this point can reach into the 30's at night.*

*10,000 feet above sea level on the Haleakala volcano you can look down on the clouds and the sea. Far in the distance are the summits of Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa on the big island of Hawaii.*



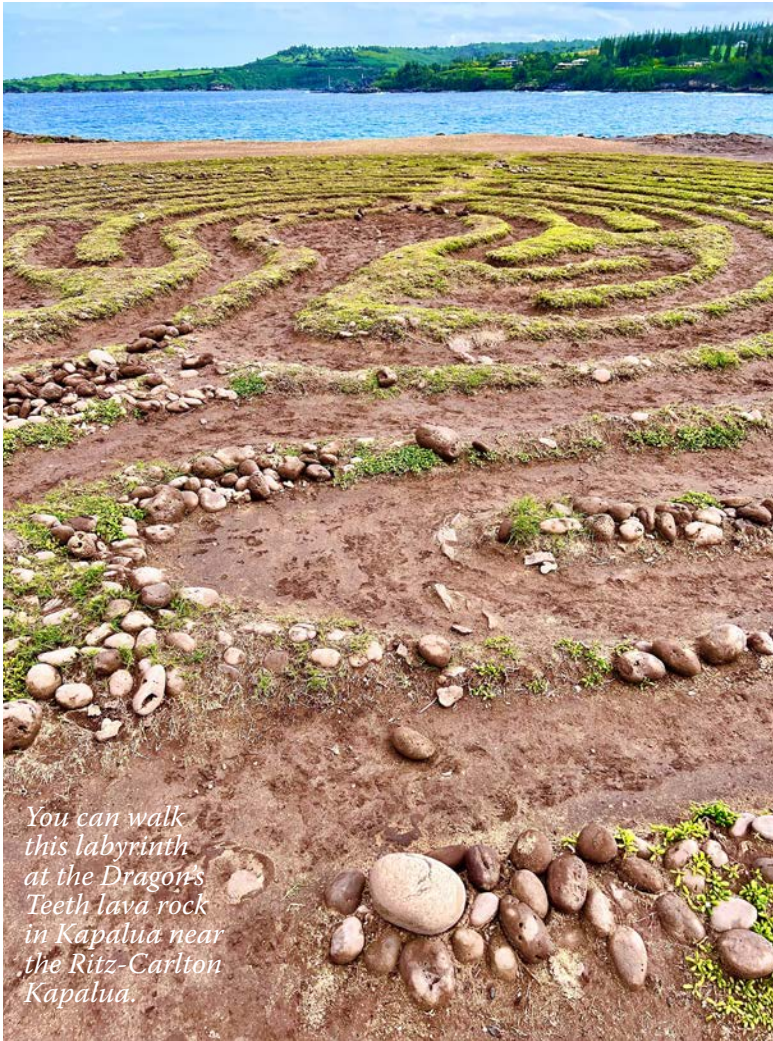
During the polar ice age the glaciers thawed and separated the mountain peaks into four separate islands: Maui, Molokai, Lanai, and Kahoʻolawe. It is no wonder when you visit Maui you can feel the energy of the nearby islands and watch their beauty from across the sea.

The island of Maui is made up of two volcanoes. On the west there is the masculine Mauna Kahalawi, and the east has the feminine Haleakala volcano. It is a true male/female balance that sends out healing energy for those who seek it. Mauna Kahalawi, or “House of Water” in Hawaiian, was once a residence for many high chiefs from the 16th-18th centuries. It is also the place you will find the sacred Iao Valley, a lush, mountain range that extends 1200 feet from the valley floor. Mana, spiritual life force or healing power, can be felt all around. Iao Valley was the site of a vicious battle to unify the islands in the 18th century, lending to its masculine energy. It was also a sacred place used for Makahiki festivals to pay homage to the God of Agriculture, Lono. Iao Valley is designated as a Natural National Landmark. Visitors sometimes say they can feel a rush of energy as they visit the site, as if the warriors from a time gone by are still there in spirit.

Haleakala literally means “House of the Sun” in Hawaiian. The story of Haleakala volcano tells that demigod Maui lassoed the sun from the volcano’s summit to let it shine longer and ensure beautiful days. Today there are ancient ritual sites around the crater, which sits 10,000 feet above sea

*Waves crashing on the lava rock in Kapalua.*

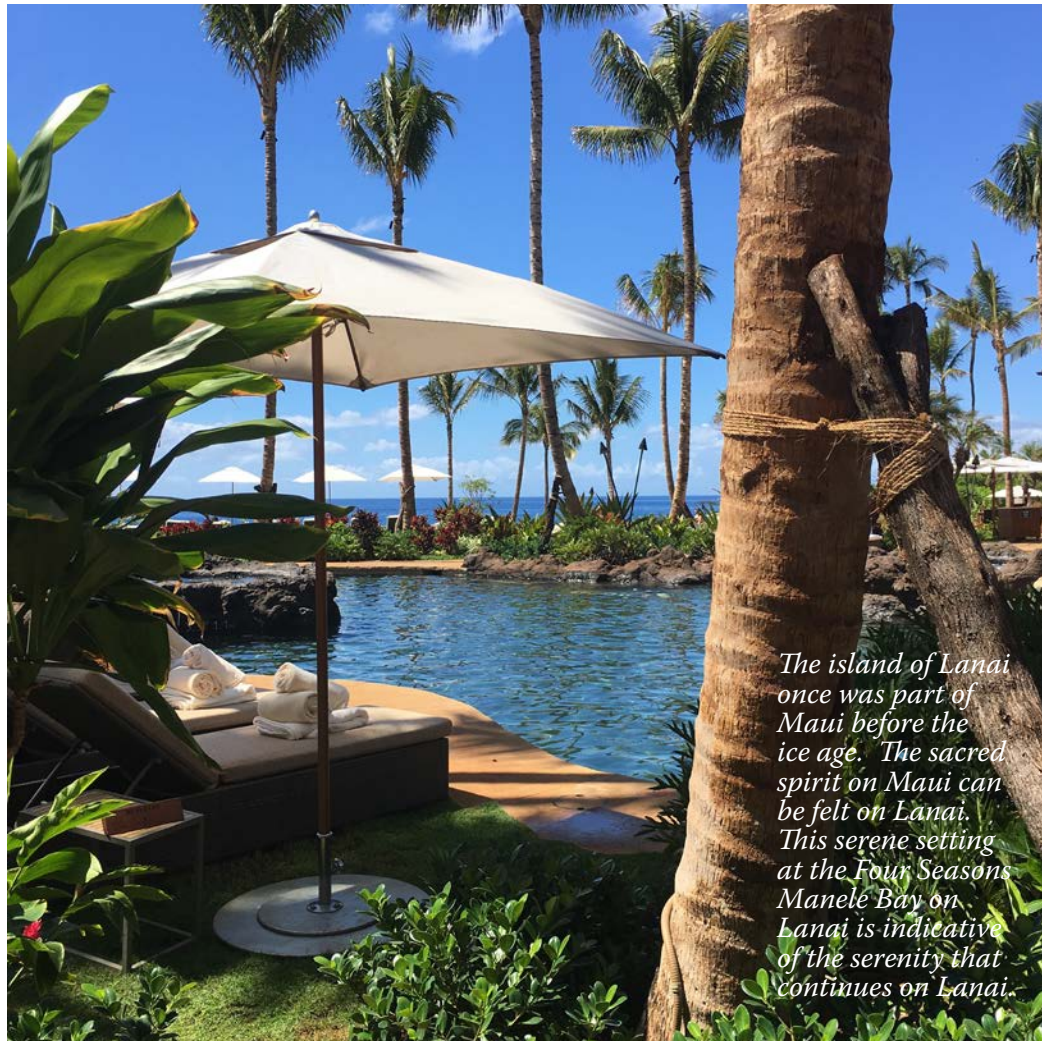




*You can walk this labyrinth at the Dragon's Teeth lava rock in Kapalua near the Ritz-Carlton Kapalua.*



*Watching the sun setting behind the island of Lanai from Lahaina, Maui.*



*The island of Lanai once was part of Maui before the ice age. The sacred spirit on Maui can be felt on Lanai. This serene setting at the Four Seasons Manele Bay on Lanai is indicative of the serenity that continues on Lanai.*

level. Haleakala is one of the largest dormant volcanoes on Earth, and can house Manhattan island in the crater. Haleakala has tremendous spiritual significance for Hawaiians. It rose from the ocean over a million years ago, leaving a history of sacred rituals throughout each generation. It also has a very unique energy. It matches the Schumann Resonance of 7.8 cycles per second. This is the same frequency of the heart and Mother Earth, which gives Haleakala its feminine and nurturing energy. This frequency is important because it induces brain states that help us relax, heal, and perceive Earth's energies. This makes it easy to sense peace and find healing while on the island. It is as natural as simply "being".

Beyond all of this you'll find a place that is a vortex between the spirit and the physical world. Makaluapuna Point, or Dragon's Teeth is a designated wahi pana, or "sacred spot". This is an ancient burial ground for a thousand human remains and is not for public access. It sits near the Ritz-Carlton in Kapalua and its holy chapel overlooking the ocean and the island of Molokai. The area gets the name

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“Dragon’s Teeth” for the feat of nature made by the cooling of lava rock as it collided into the sea. Nearby you can walk a rock labyrinth and meditate your intentions to the universe.

One of few places on earth with so many microclimates is Maui. You can drive from rainforest, to alpine, to desert in half a day. Because of so many drastic meteorological changes you’ll see amazing beauty. Keep an eye out for rainbows! Some days you can see several of them if weather systems are moving quickly. Rainbows are believed to be a sign from God, or a sign of good luck. They certainly reinforce that beauty is all around the island.

There’s no doubt why you will see and hear Maui No Kao Oi. It means “Maui is the best”. Truly is is an experience you will never forget in your mind and in your heart. No matter what you do you will connect with the island in a very meaningful way. Be sure however to leave what is Maui’s in Maui. The curse of Pele says it is considered bad luck to take anything natively Hawaiian from the islands such as rocks or sand. What the islands give you to lift your spirit and your soul are infinitely enough. Let the Hawaiian energy flow.

**COVID TRAVEL NOTE:** Requirements for entering Hawaii change often. At this writing visitors are required to be vaccinated, or provide an approved negative Covid test before entering the state. If you cannot provide a test or a vaccination



*Native Hawaiians perform ancient dances at a luau in Lahaina, Maui.*



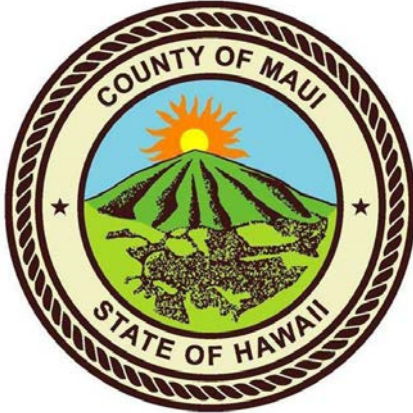
*A lush, green valley on the northwest side of Maui near Mount Kahalawi.*



*The island of Lanai seen from boating off the coast of Lahaina, Maui.*

card, there is a mandatory quarantine for five days upon arrival.

*-Julie Staley is CEO/Owner of Spencer Films, President of Spencer Theatre Company and The Staley Museum, a television host/reporter for WSEC-TV, and a director for the Staley Family Foundation. She is a doctoral student in Public Administration at the University of Illinois at Springfield. Julie and her husband Mark have two sons.*



*The 2020 Census Report said there are 164,754 residents on Maui. With an average high of 77 to 82 degrees year round the population of the island more than doubled over the last 40 years.*

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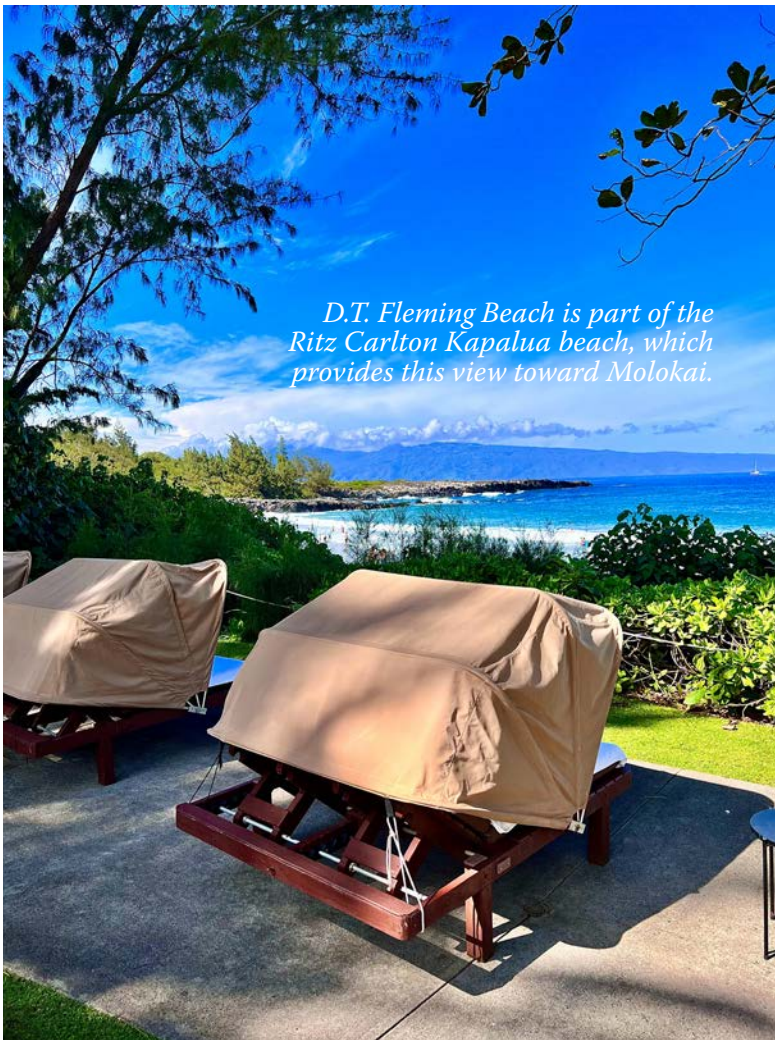


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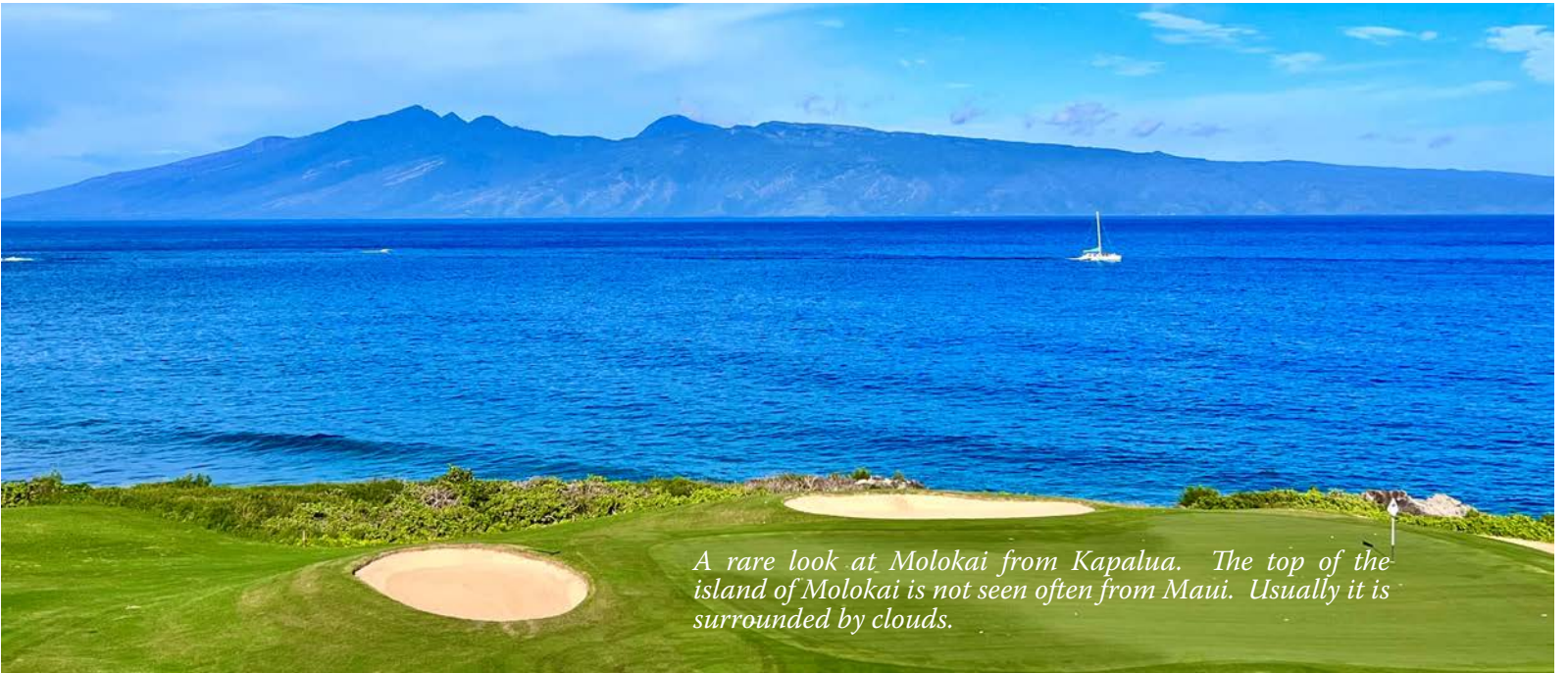
*D.T. Fleming Beach is part of the Ritz Carlton Kapalua beach, which provides this view toward Molokai.*



*This altar is part of the space that marks the ancient burial ground at Makaluapuna Point, or the Dragon's Teeth of lava rock.*



*A full rainbow in Kapalua at the well-known 5th hole of the Kapalua Bay Golf Course.*



*A rare look at Molokai from Kapalua. The top of the island of Molokai is not seen often from Maui. Usually it is surrounded by clouds.*



*Cassiopeia seen between the tall palms outside of our home in Kapalua.*



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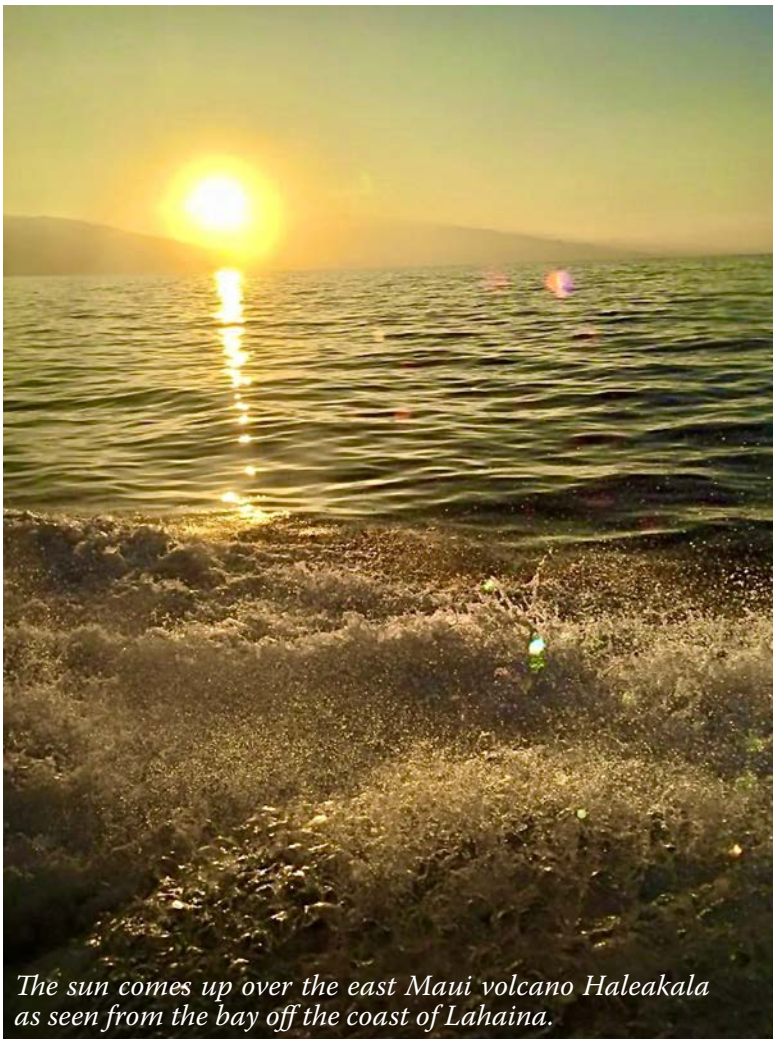
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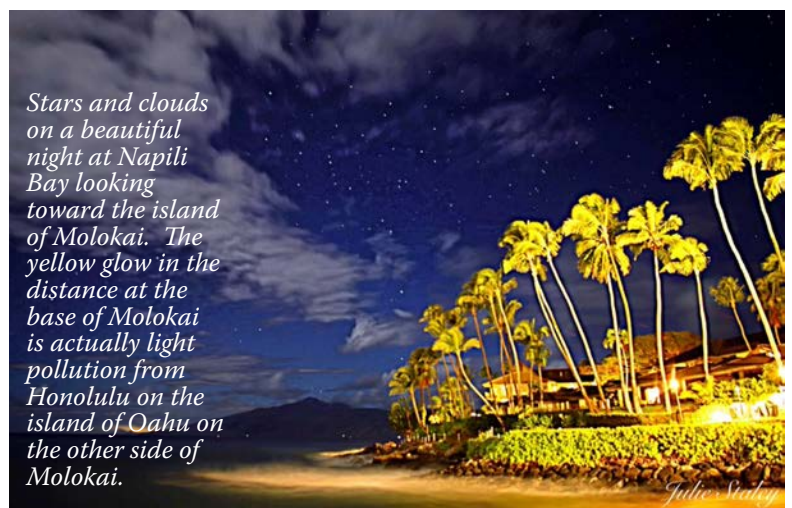
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*The sun comes up over the east Maui volcano Haleakala as seen from the bay off the coast of Lahaina.*



*Sunset light at the Sea House Restaurant at Napili Bay.*



*Stars and clouds on a beautiful night at Napili Bay looking toward the island of Molokai. The yellow glow in the distance at the base of Molokai is actually light pollution from Honolulu on the island of Oahu on the other side of Molokai.*

*Julia Suter*

BEAUX ARTS BALL

This is our first event coverage since March/April of 2020. Enjoy these photos from the Thanksgiving weekend celebration at the Crown Plaza. Formal pictures follow in the next section.



Cece Donathan, Lizzy Benoit, Queen Abby Milhiser, Olivia Pennell and Analyse Vance



Bryan Wenthe, Amanda Maddox Kurmann, King Barrett Kurmann, Ella and Clayton Kurmann



Brad and Caroline Swanson, Patty Lloyd, Nancy Noll Shaver, Ava Fultz and Ameial Eves



Joe Murray, Madeline Wagner, Taylor Bader, Sarah Wagner and Will Formea



Caroline Bryans, Lily Swanson and Kate Bryans



Mia, Mark, Carrie, Olivia and Jake Pennell



Rich, Emily and Angie Thuma



Vicky and Josie Kegg



*Dr. Joe and Kate Baima*



*Emily Thuma, Amelia Eves and Olivia Baima*



*Henry Kinion and Emma Kinion*



*James and Erica Michael*



*Julie Staley & Melissa Skinner-Liberman*



*Kaitlyn Sommer and Kristen Fernstaedt*



*Caroline Noll, Katie Mae Milhiser, Sophia Llosa and Judy Noll*



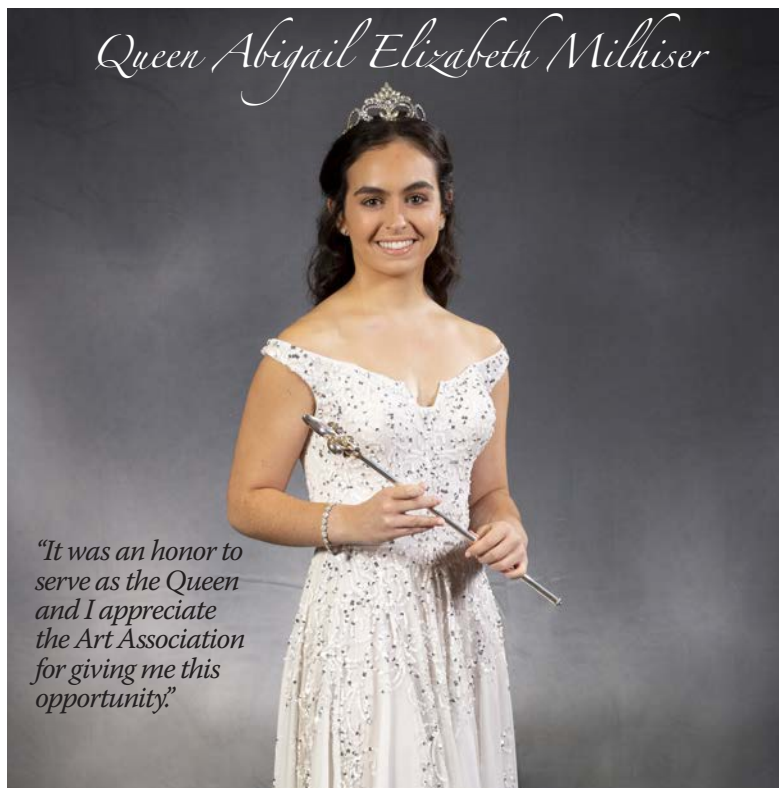
*Susie, Alice and Bill Liberman*



*Madeline Wagner and Joe Murray*

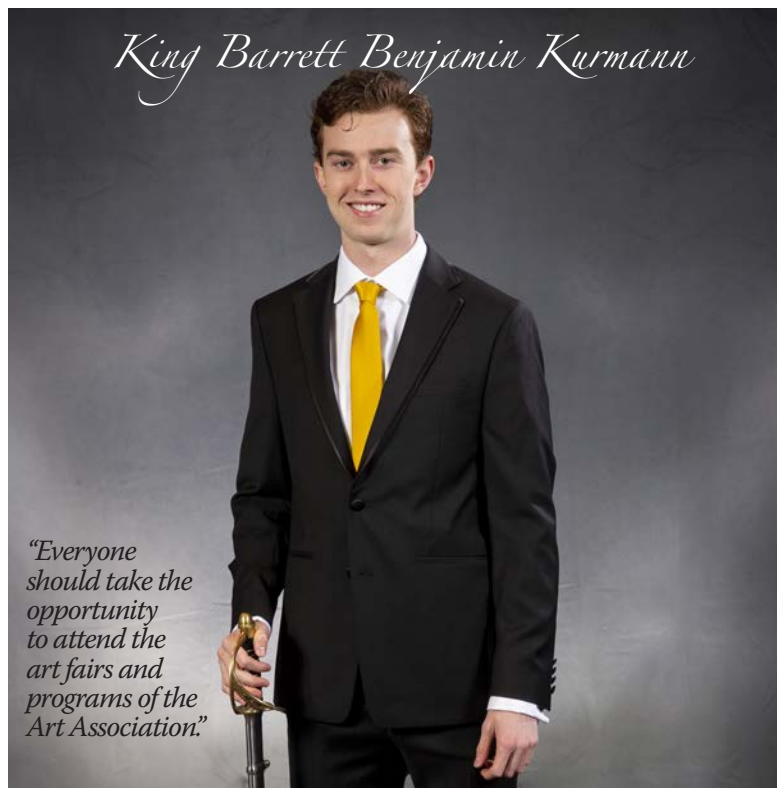
# The 89th Beaux Arts Ball

*Queen Abigail Elizabeth Milhiser*



*"It was an honor to serve as the Queen and I appreciate the Art Association for giving me this opportunity."*

*King Barrett Benjamin Kurmann*



*"Everyone should take the opportunity to attend the art fairs and programs of the Art Association."*

Abigail Elizabeth Milhiser is the daughter of Gail Noll and John Milhiser and the sister of Katie Mae Milhiser. A 2019 graduate of Springfield High School, Queen Abby is in her third year at the University of Virginia, where she is majoring in psychology with a minor in government and foreign affairs. At UVA, Abby is an Ambassador for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, a member of Chi Omega sorority, and a part of the organizing committee for the Miracle Network Dance Marathon, which raises funds for the UVA Children's Hospital. Abby has been active in her sorority's philanthropy, supporting the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and has served as a medical services volunteer with the UVA Health System. This past summer, Abby worked on Capitol Hill as a Congressional intern for Representative Rodney Davis.

While a student at Springfield High School, Abby was involved in Student Council, National Honor Society, the Scarlet Line Varsity Dance Team, the marching and concert bands, choir, and school musicals. She performed at Carnegie Hall with the choir, and Walt Disney World with the band. She also had the amazing opportunity to visit Germany, France, and Spain with a group from Springfield High after graduation.

Abby is a former member of the Springfield Ballet Company and served as a Ballet Instructor at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Illinois from 2014 to 2019. Through the Ballet Company, Abby learned the importance of practice and the value of hard work. Abby formed strong friendships through dance and is thrilled that four of her former Ballet Company colleagues -- Lizzy Benoit, Cece Donathan, Olivia Pennell, and Analyse Vance join her as Special Maids in the Beaux Arts Ball.

She is a member of South Side Christian Church and the Daughters of the American Revolution, Springfield Chapter. She has volunteered with The Parent Place and Downtown Springfield, Inc., and has been a cast member and volunteer with the Springfield Muni Opera.

Barrett Benjamin Kurmann is the son of Mr. Jeffrey Kurmann and Ms. Amanda Maddox Kurmann. He is a 2018 graduate of Springfield High School and is currently a senior at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri, where he will graduate in May with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. He plans to stay in the Midwest and find work in the car industry or in the renewable energy field.

Barrett is an active member of the Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity. He has participated in various community service and philanthropy events at SLU with his fraternity, such as Anchor Splash, Over the Edge, and Polar Plunge to benefit The Ronald McDonald House and Special Olympics. He even plays on his fraternity soccer team. Barrett also studied abroad in Madrid, Spain, during his 2020 spring semester.

While a student at Springfield High, Barrett was a three-season athlete participating on the cross country, swim, and track teams, being named team captain for both cross country and track his senior year. He was also a member of the National Honor Society. During his high school days, he enjoyed giving back to the community by volunteering for the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and The Salvation Army.

Barrett has been an active member of his church, Westminster Presbyterian Church, serving as a youth deacon, youth leader, and participating in four week-long mission trips throughout the US. On these trips he has learned how powerful giving back can be. Some of the projects on these trips have included insulating a home, demolishing and reinstalling a bathroom, tearing out and installing drywall, re-roofing a home, and building a wheelchair accessible ramp.



*John Milhiser, Queen Abigail Elizabeth Milhiser, Kathryn Milhiser, Gail Noll-Milhiser*



*Clayton Maddox Kurmann, Ella Marie Kurmann, King Barrett Benjamin Kurmann,  
Amanda Maddox-Kurmann, Bryan Wenthe*



*Special Maid- Molly Rose Stern, Bryn Elizabeth Kelm, Analyse Rose Vance, King Barrett, Queen Abigail, Sarah Barrett Wagner, Elizabeth Marie Benoit, Ella Marie Kurmann, Cecilia Frances Donathan, Olivia Lillian Pennell*



*Gentlemen in Waiting - William Formea, King Barrett & Queen Abigail, Shaul Latif*



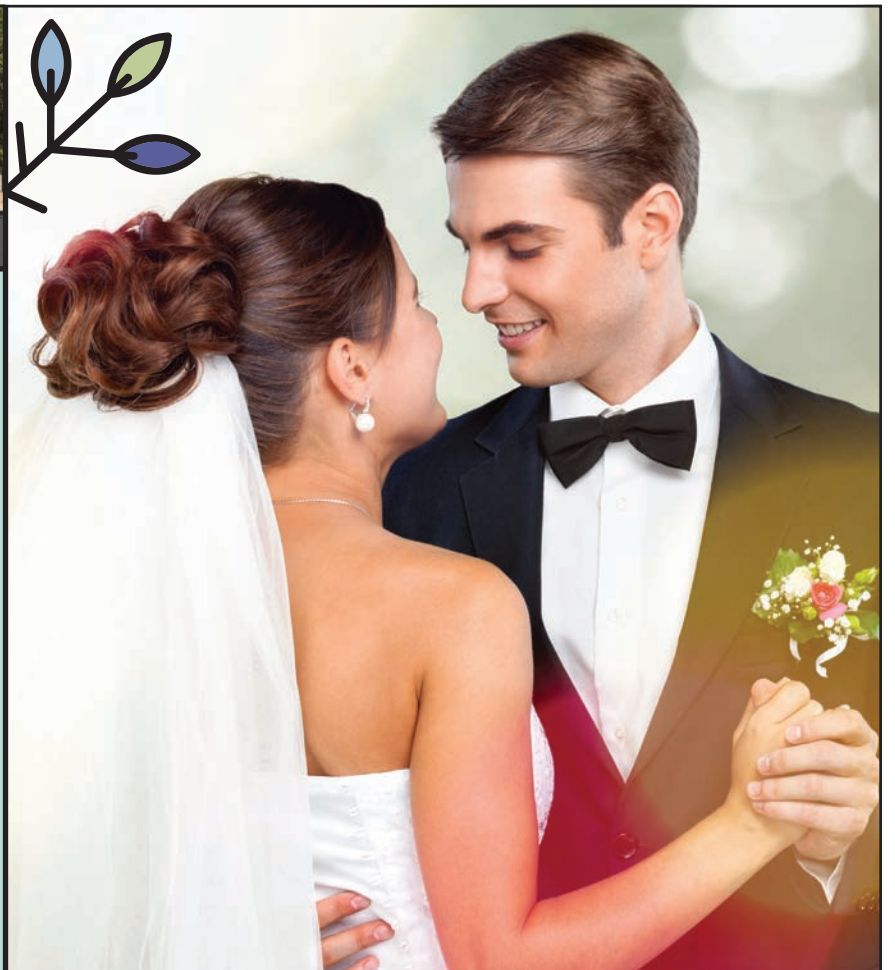
*Knights & Maids L - R: Brian Nelson Becker, Yianna Timotheou VanFleet, Olivia Grace Baima (standing), Katherine Mae Milhiser, Clayton Maddox Kurmann (standing), Queen Abigail, King Barrett (standing), Sydnie LaRissa Edwards, Nathan John Michael (standing), Emily Corrine Thuma, Amelia Pearl Eves (standing), Emma Helene Kinion, Elisabeth Kate Vance (standing)*



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# *The 89th Beaux*

*On November 27, 2021 Queen Abigail Elizabeth Milhiser and King Barrett Benjamin Kurma*



PHOTO BY  
WARMOWSKI PHOTOGRAPHY

# Arts Ball Court

*ann with their court honored the families who support the Springfield Art Association.*





*Heralds- (Boys in back) Gregory John Huck, Lucas Mueller Staley, Greyson Alexander Jones, Owen Thomas Liberman  
(Girls in front) Alice Ann Bisch, Sophia Grace Lee Llosa, Katherine Jane Bryans, Katherine Jane Huck, Josephine Grace Kegg*



*Troubadours- Lavender Monet Trudeau, James Kent Kegg, Dahlia Wren Stivers, Daelyn Rene Jones, Lily Grace Swanson,  
Janie Mae DiBartolomeo, Caroline Hope Bryans, Alice Mae Liberman*



*Court Children- Gianna Jean Capranica, Harper Louise Williams, Daniel Seamus Huck (seated), Archer Herndon Noll, Donald Charles Noll (seated),  
Jana Kenley White, Ernest James Liberman (seated), Caroline Cadagin Noll*



*Courtiers- Megan Brooke Becker,  
Henry Travis Kinion*

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*Flower Vendors & Pages- L-R: Ava Mae Fultz, Rachel Jane Becker, Alexander Eugene Staley, Lauren Elizabeth Michael, Matthew David Sommer,  
Anna Elizabeth Liberman, Ethan Joseph Bairna, Amara Olga Kaeding*

# Bryan Rives

Director, Performing Arts Services  
UIS Performing Arts Center



PHOTO BY BILL STOKES



# University of Illinois Springfield PERFORMING ARTS CENTER.

BY GUS GORDON

Since coming to town in July of 2017, Bryan Rives has made a big splash as director of the UIS Performing Arts Center at the University of Illinois Springfield. Just like the stars he has booked to perform here (and the search lights that cross the night sky on every show night at the Center), Bryan has generated lots of attention.

His career path to Springfield took him all over the country, including jobs at several major performing arts facilities where he worked with many famous celebrities.

His love for the arts blossomed when his middle school put on a talent show, and he was picked to run the light board.

“I was excited to run the lights, so I asked the drama teacher to explain the whole light board to me,” said Bryan. “The teacher said ‘All you need to do is move the lever this way so the lights come on and this way so the lights go off.’ During the rehearsals I started

playing with every knob on the board and actually designed the lighting plot for the show and had a fun time doing it. In high school, I really got into the drama club. I had no desire to be on stage whatsoever, but I loved being the stage manager.”

Following high school, Bryan went to the University of Texas at Austin to study stage management. All of the upper class students got the prime jobs in the theatre department, but as an incoming freshman, he was assigned to be the second assistant stage manager for the opera department, which was located in the UT Performing Arts Center, a gigantic multi-venue state-of-the-art facility. “That’s where I fell in love with the idea that you could work in an environment where there’s a different show every night.”

“When I was about to graduate, I realized that if I really wanted to manage a performing arts center, I would need a master’s degree in business,” Bryan said. “So I went to

the University of Wisconsin, where I received my master’s degree in business and arts administration.”

His first big job out of grad school was as the events/stage manager at the Lied Center for Performing Arts at the University of Nebraska. While working at the facility and watching all of the touring companies come through, he became fascinated with the idea of going on tour. He was able to take a leave of absence from his job and hit the road for the first time as an assistant company manager for “Sesame Street Live.”

When he finished the tour, he went back to Lied Center, but now in the position of facility manager, overseeing operations. “After a few years, I realized that I had hit a glass ceiling and felt it was time to move on,” said Bryan. “I have never been afraid to go on to the next job if I felt my current job didn’t have advancement opportunities, or if I wasn’t learning anything more.”



*Behind Bryan is the pit elevator platform featuring spiral lift technology which not only allows equipment to be brought up to stage from storage areas below, but can serve as either an extension of the Sangamon Auditorium stage or room for 61 additional audience seats depending on an event's need.*

PHOTO BY BILL STOKES



*Bryan inside the UIS Studio Theatre technical control booth which was recently upgraded to include live streaming capabilities for events.*

PHOTO BY BILL STOKES



On tour with Discover the Dinosaurs.



Backstage with Sesame Street Live cast.



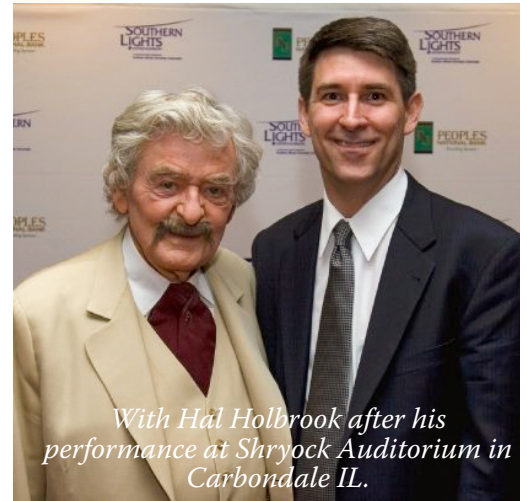
On tour with Sesame Street Live.



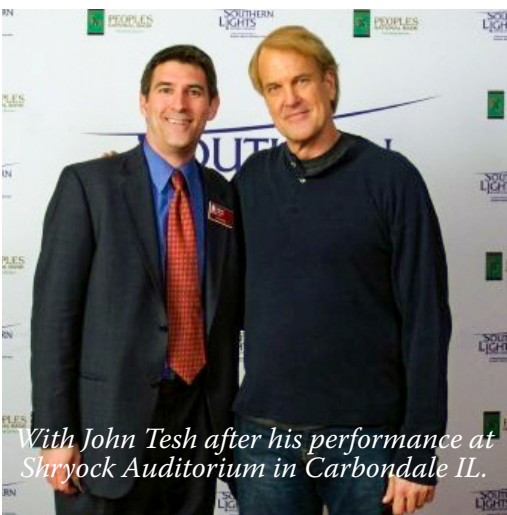
With Garrison Keillor after his performance at Shryock Auditorium in Carbondale IL.



With Crystal Gayle after her performance at Shryock Auditorium in Carbondale IL.



With Hal Holbrook after his performance at Shryock Auditorium in Carbondale IL.



With John Tesh after his performance at Shryock Auditorium in Carbondale IL.



With Vicki Lawrence after her performance at Shryock Auditorium in Carbondale IL.

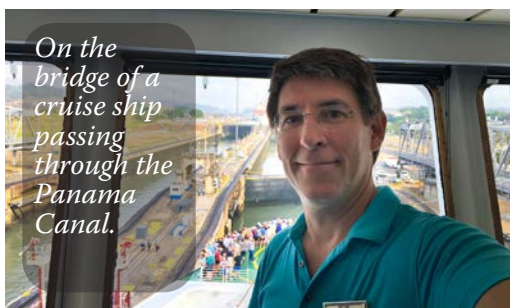


With Lily Tomlin after her performance at Shryock Auditorium in Carbondale IL.

From 1989 until 2006, he worked his way up the ladder to bigger facilities and better job titles. Following his time in Nebraska, Bryan went to work for the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts in Reno, Nevada as the business and sales manager. This was followed by positions as the general manager of Indiana University Auditorium in Bloomington, Indiana; executive director of the Blanch M. Touhill Performing Arts Center at the University of Missouri in St. Louis; director of the James H. Whiting Auditorium at the Flint Cultural Center in Flint, Michigan; and the chief operating officer of the Michigan Opera Theatre / Detroit Opera House in Detroit, Michigan. Each job increased his skill set as an arts administrator.

From Detroit, Bryan moved to Southern Illinois University, where he was the director of SIU Event Services, which included managing Shryock Auditorium. During his nearly five years in Southern Illinois, he turned around the auditorium's yearly deficit to create a department that was achieving a balanced budget each year. Then the University restructured their operations, and eliminated his department. "That's when I vowed I was done running performing arts centers," said Bryan. "I was burned out."

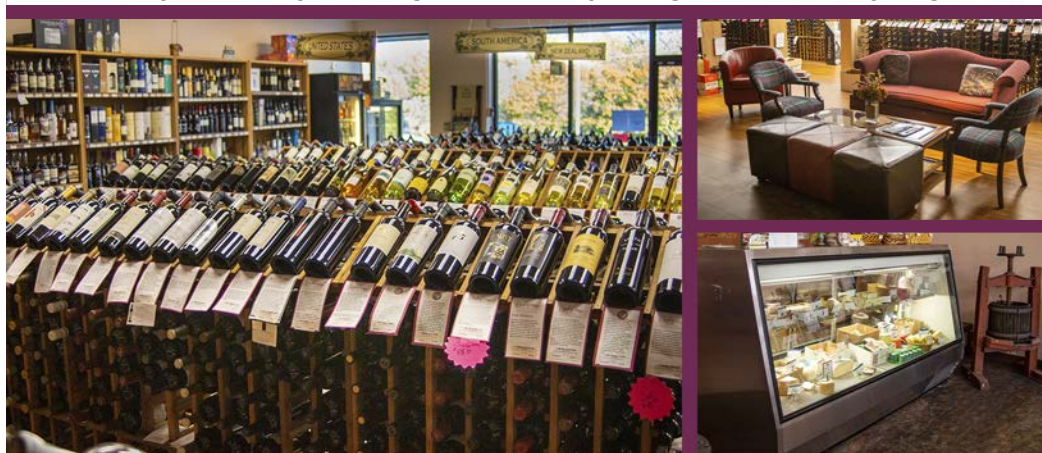
Needing a change of scenery, Bryan went on to the next phase of his career as the onboard production manager for Celebrity Cruises. "I sailed the Caribbean, crossed the Panama Canal, and sailed to the Baltic Sea, among other places." In between cruises, he hit the road with several touring productions, as company manager for "Hello Kitty's Super Cute Friendship Festival" arena tour, The Pro Football Hall of Fame "Honor the Heroes" tour, and the "Discover the Dinosaurs - Unleashed!" tour. He also spent the 2016 holidays traveling with the Moscow Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker" as their company and touring manager.



*On the bridge of a cruise ship passing through the Panama Canal.*



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*Traveling on the tour bus with the Moscow Ballet.*



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"For two and a half years of my life, I was just living out of two large suitcases and carry-on bags. I had a great time with that. I enjoyed touring, but I would never want to cruise again. I got that out of my blood."

Some old friends helped lead him to his current position as director of UIS Performing Arts Services at the University of Illinois Springfield. "I got this phone call from Eric Thibodeux-Thompson, who is on the faculty at UIS," Bryan said. "Eric's wife Missy and I were both undergrad students

at the University of Texas Austin together, and when I worked at the Lied Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, I ended up renting Missy the other side of a duplex I owned. Eric proposed to Missy on my back patio!"

Eric was calling Bryan to tell him about a position that opened up at Sangamon Auditorium when Bob Vaughn announced his retirement.

"Now, keep in mind I was totally burned out on running performing arts centers at this point," Bryan

*With performers from  
Celebrity Cruises.*



*With BB King on his tour bus after his show.*



*With Jay Leno after his performance at the UIS  
Performing Arts Center.*



*With Lewis Black after his show at UIS  
Performing Arts Center.*



*With Vince Gill after  
his show at the UIS  
Performing Arts Center.*



*With Larry the Cable Guy  
after his show at the UIS  
Performing Arts Center.*

explained. "I enjoyed touring. I'd set up my life for touring. Everything was in storage. I didn't know if I wanted to do this again. I literally made up my mind to apply at 2 p.m. on the day that the application closed."

The university search committee was very impressed with his resume, and Bryan was selected for the position. "Throughout my career I have always gravitated back to the Midwest," Bryan remarked. "It's no surprise to me that I ended up in central Illinois. I find there is a comfort in the unpretentious nature of the community, and I really love the casual, relaxed nature of our audiences."

The first thing he did at UIS was to undertake a major marketing research campaign. "We surveyed our audiences and received thousands of responses. I really started to understand how people felt about the auditorium, the types of shows that were being presented, and the price of the tickets."

Bryan and his staff did a cost analysis of every show that had been presented at the auditorium over the past three years to see which shows were financially successful, and which were not. "My job is all about risk management. You never want to do just one or two shows, you want to do 15 to 20 shows a season because you're going to have some winners financially and some losers. A big change that we made was to stop booking a season of events a year in advance. This allowed the auditorium to have more flexibility for tours that were coming through the area, enabling us to get better financial deals and entice more outside promoters to rent the hall."

Bryan rebranded the operation the UIS Performing Arts Center, which encompasses both Sangamon Auditorium and the UIS Studio Theatre on the lower level. He also remodeled the lobby of Sangamon Auditorium to include a concession stand. "The other big thing I've done since I've been here is renovate the UIS Studio Theatre. It's a great little black box theater that seats 124 people and a wonderful place for the theatre department to do their shows." The space has also been outfitted with surround sound, a big movie screen, and television equipment so that events can be live streamed.

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 <p><b>Fiddler on the Roof</b></p> <p><b>Thursday, March 24 7:30 PM</b></p>	 <p><b>AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN</b> The Musical</p> <p><b>Thursday, June 2 7:30 PM</b></p>	 <p>JEFF B. DAVIS JOEL MURRAY RYAN STILES GREG PROOPS <b>WHOSE LIVE ANYWAY?</b></p> <p><b>Saturday, October 15 8 PM</b></p>
 <p><b>RON WHITE</b></p> <p><b>Thursday, April 28 7:30 PM</b></p>	 <p><b>Riverdance</b> 25th Anniversary</p> <p><b>Wednesday, June 8 7:30 PM</b></p>	<p><b>For a Full List of Upcoming Events go to:</b> <a href="http://UISpac.com/events">UISpac.com/events</a></p>


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The pandemic has slowed down some of the progress that has been made at the center, but Bryan still has big plans for more improvements to come. He has grown very fond of Springfield, and would be happy to stay here for the rest of his career.

"We are in the very initial stages of considering what a major renovation of Sangamon Auditorium might include. I'm excited about what can be accomplished in the upcoming ten to fifteen years until I retire."





## THE JOHNSON FAMILY

Mark and Yu Johnson moved here in order to send their children to Rochester schools. They are now empty nesters. The home has many fond memories and prosperity. Their first child is studying abroad as an honor student and their second daughter graduated from Rochester High School and was their 2021 Valedictorian. She is now studying in California.

Not only is the house located in one of the most sought after subdivisions of Rochester (Park Forest Place), but this house also backs up to the lake and has no through traffic. It is inside a large area of three cul-de-sacs. Children play outside, parents gather on their driveways to chat. It feels private, peaceful and safe.



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*Mark and Yu  
Hasegawa-Johnson  
with their children*



*This cozy living room has plenty of light  
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*The formal dining room is just off the foyer with easy access to the kitchen.*

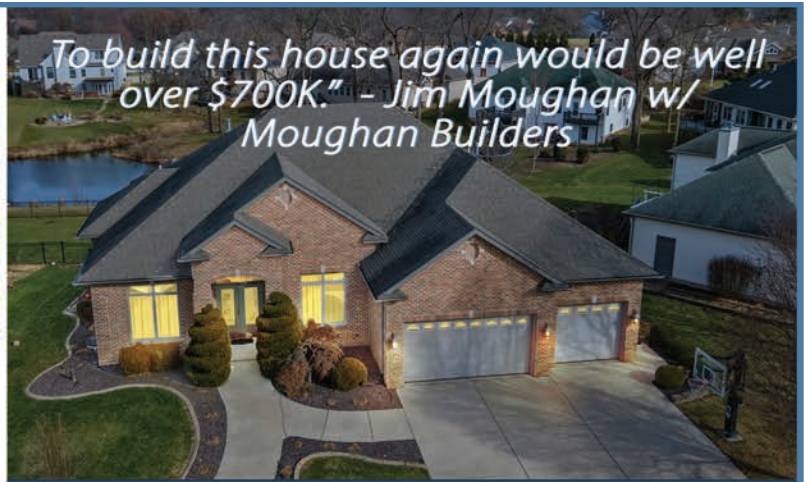




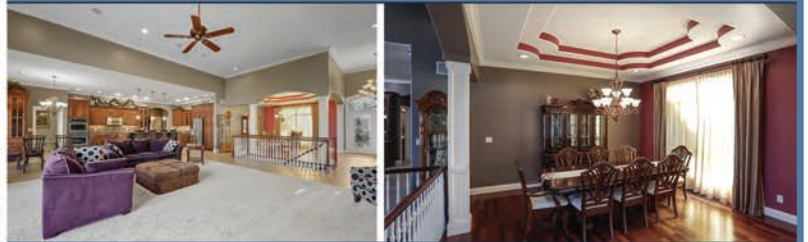
*Seasonal Views from  
1605 Appalachian Trail  
Rochester, IL*



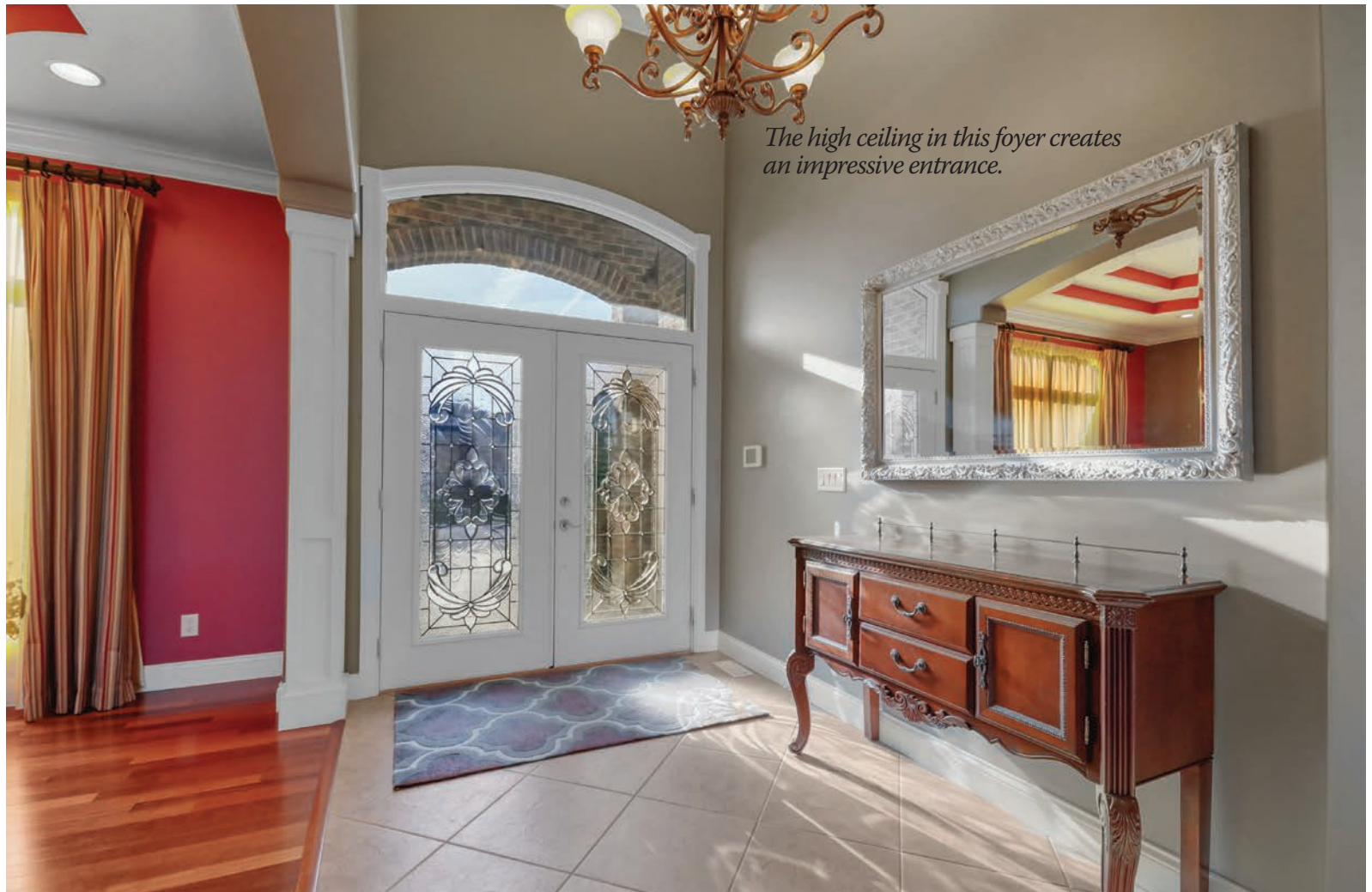
*Video Tour:  
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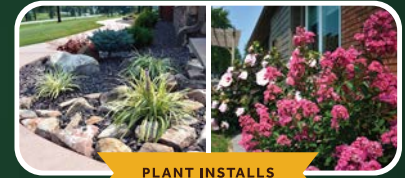
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*2022 brings exciting energy to Pease's at BUNN Gourmet as we expand our team. We welcome our new manager to our Gable's location. **Brad Hanson** brings over 20 years of experience in the foodservice and hospitality industry. He has served in key roles at several local establishments including Public House 29, Sebastian's & Stella Blue and Top of the Hilton.*



*BUNN Gourmet 100% Black Angus beef.*



*If you haven't had the opportunity to experience a cocoa bomb, Pease's is here to help. A cocoa bomb is a hollow chocolate shell filled with hot cocoa mix and mini marshmallows. To experience the theater of creating a great cup of hot cocoa, place your bomb in a mug, pour hot milk over the top and watch the magic happen. We will also offer Bailey's Bombs; a mini bottle of Bailey's Irish Cream packaged with a cocoa bomb and Rum Chata Bombs.*



If you are looking to create a romantic dinner at home this Valentine's Day, we can help. Consider a meal that features BUNN Gourmet 100% Black Angus beef. A selection of USDA Prime and Choice steaks is available in 2-packs at the Gables including New York Strips, ribeyes, top sirloin and flat iron steaks. Round out your special meal with a bottle of wine and a greeting card, available at BUNN Gourmet. Complete your special dinner with a hand-crafted dessert from our pastry kitchen. We offer cheesecakes and interesting cake flavors by the slice, individual mousse cakes, and of course our fabulous chocolate dipped strawberries. For Valentine's Day, we will add Red Velvet Cheesecake and Chocolate Covered Strawberry Cake to the mix. Place your

orders by calling the store at 217-793-1840. We encourage you to place your orders by February 6<sup>th</sup>. Watch our Facebook page for announcements of in-store specials for Valentine's Day weekend.

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We have also added to our pastry, chocolate, and savory culinary teams bringing a variety of fresh talent. Look for interesting developments in product innovation in the coming year.

Pease's at BUNN Gourmet is busy planning for our next big celebration, Valentine's Day. Our retail stores are stocked with gifts so you can find just the right thing for the special people in your life. V-day themed gift baskets and boxes of Pease's classic or artisan chocolates are certain to please Valentines of all ages. Need suggestions for that "hard to shop for" man in your life? Consider our gourmet nut selections, BUNN Gourmet trail mixes, chocolate covered pretzels or special gift baskets with Craft Beer and Pease's nuts.



There's a cozy spot waiting for you at Pease's at BUNN Gourmet.  
 Coffee • Beer • Wine • Cocktails • Breakfast • Lunch • Savory Evening Selections

2941 Plaza Dr, Springfield, IL 62704 • (217) 793-1840

The Gables Shopping complex is Springfield's premier destination. Experience fine dining at PAO or Curate restaurants. Enhance the experience with a pre-dinner glass or wine or cocktail or an after-dinner gourmet dessert at Pease's at BUNN Gourmet. If you are ready to refresh your wardrobe for the New Year, the Gables is just the place. For women, try Talbots, Chicco's, The Wardrobe,

and J.Jill. Men will enjoy Jim Herron's Clothier's great selections. Merle Norman offers a full line of cosmetics to give you that new look. If you are considering updating your home, Jim Wilson Interiors, Homescapes and Westside Stories can make it happen for you. Start a new tradition this year and make The Gables Shopping Plaza your destination of choice.



*Chocolate dipped strawberries are a popular item at Pease's at BUNN Gourmet.*



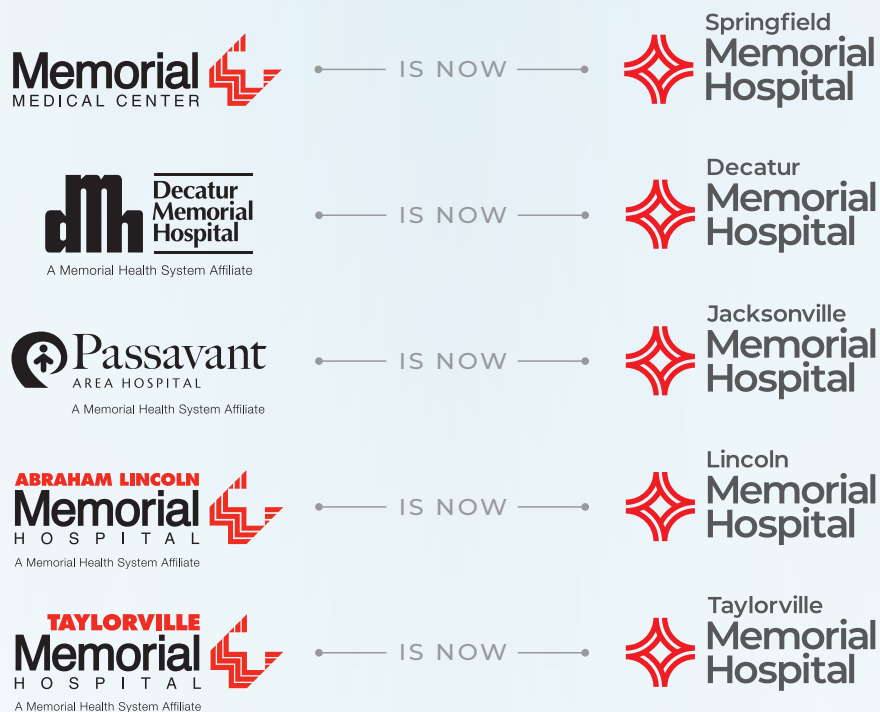
*A cocoa bomb is a hollow chocolate shell filled with hot cocoa mix and mini marshmallows. To experience the theater of creating a great cup of hot cocoa, place your bomb in a mug, pour hot milk over the top and watch the magic happen.*

# Memorial Health System is now



In 1897, we were a single Springfield hospital. Today, we are one of the leading healthcare organizations in Illinois with more than 10,000 colleagues and partners serving at five community hospitals and care locations across the region. And now we have united all of them under a single name—and a new symbol. Introducing “Memorial Health.”

Healthcare has changed a lot in the past century, but our mission to deliver care to the community will never change. And as one united health system, we are ready for whatever tomorrow brings. Welcome to the new symbol of health.



Connect with us online at [memorial.health](http://memorial.health)