

Our
100th
Edition

Bloom



BLACK HISTORY

Dr. Gladys DeVane & Liz Mitchell

TELLING IT THE WAY IT WAS

17TH ANNUAL

Wedding
GUIDE

February/March 2023

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Whether love comes at first sight, from within a group of friends, by being opposites, or between best pals, the four weddings in our 17th Annual Wedding Guide prove one thing: There's a romantic story to tell with every marriage.

By Linda Margison, photography by Mika LH Photography, Seth Teeters Photography, and Wandering Heart Photography

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Dr. Gladys DeVane and Elizabeth Mitchell are passionate about sharing the true history of Blacks in America, and in Indiana especially. Together they have spent decades correcting misinformation and highlighting the little-known achievements of African Americans. This is their story.

By Carmen Siering



(l-r) Dr. Gladys DeVane and Liz Mitchell.
Photo by Rodney Margison

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In the Beginning

This is our 100th edition of *Bloom*—a milestone I could never have imagined reaching when I started the magazine 17 years ago. Thank you, Bloomington. Without the support of local businesses, our readers, and all the talented people who contribute their work, the magazine would not exist. And a special thank you to everyone for helping get us through the pandemic without missing a single edition.

When I'm out and about, the question I get asked more than any other is how I came to start the magazine in Bloomington. Here is a condensed version of that story:

I had been living in Greenwich Village in New York City for many years, loved it, and could never imagine leaving. Then in just a couple of years, my quaint, funky neighborhood morphed into Manhattan's hottest entertainment district for the young and trendy, full of expensive shops, restaurants, and exclusive nightspots. I didn't fit in anymore. I was also bored with the work I was doing as an editorial consultant for publishing companies.

An old friend, who had a couple of degrees from Indiana University, had always raved about Bloomington and was about to move back. I came along for the ride and in just three days fell in love with our town.

For the next several months, while I sold my apartment, I learned as much as I could about Bloomington and city magazines. Then, the day before Halloween 2005, I packed up my car and, like so many adventurers before me, headed west. I was 60 years old. Magazines everywhere were dying. Friends and former colleagues thought I was nuts.

A local real estate agent had found a place for me to stay while I got settled. I arrived on a cold, damp night. My new abode was in a rundown student apartment on North Lincoln Street. There were holes in the windows, warped floors, and mice droppings in the kitchen. The mattress on the floor was still in its plastic wrap.

I was beside myself. What had I done!? I left all my friends and my spacious apartment in New York for this? I had stopped smoking 16 years prior, but that night around midnight, I went out and bought a pack of Marlboros.

The next morning, I started work on the magazine.

In the beginning I had no local help. Two of the best graphic designers in New York designed the media kit and, in the early years, all the feature stories in the magazine. Eventually I recruited a couple of people to help me sell advertising and found writers and other resources.



The *Bloom* staff celebrates at the magazine's 16th annual holiday party in December. Pictured are (l-r) Managing Editor Rodney Margison, Founder Malcolm Abrams, Office Manager Kat Cochran, and Executive Publisher Cassandra Huskey. Not present is the magazine's designer, Stephanie Reeves of Spectrum Creative Group. Photo by Lisa Spencer

In the nine months it took to launch the first issue, I came to know what a special place this is and to reflect that specialness in the magazine's content, so different from most city magazines. *Bloom's* missions from the beginning were to support local businesses, local charities, the arts, and diversity.

Bloomington businesses, I believe, were hungry for a quality magazine. The first issue came out in August 2006, and with help, I was able to sell more than 70 ads into it.

Eventually, I found a little house on East 1st Street and put out the magazine from a back room.

And so it began.

For the past 12 years, the magazine's home has been a charming, celery-colored bungalow on West 6th Street. Several months ago, it came up for sale and, rather than be forced to leave, Executive Publisher Cassandra Huskey and I bought the building.

Many people have helped me on this journey but none more than Cassandra and Managing Editor Rodney Margison, a talented writer, editor, and photographer. Like me, they love Bloomington and are passionate about making a worthy magazine. Hopefully, we can do it for many more years to come.

Malcolm Abrams
editor@magbloom.com



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By Cynthia (Cindy) Herrington, DNP, FNP, RN, NE-BC, OCN
Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer
IU Health South Central Region

Stroke Care at IU Health Bloomington

Here are the facts.

- Every minute you don't receive proper care after a stroke increases the risk of long-term disability or death.
- Getting to your nearest emergency department is of utmost importance with strokes.
- IU Health Bloomington is the only facility that cares for strokes from Indianapolis to Evansville and Columbus to Terre Haute.

IU Health Bloomington is proud of our stroke teams. Their leading-edge care saves lives and ensures individuals have the best chance of returning to their normal.

And our care standards are high for these individuals, as shown through our Gold Plus: Target Stroke Honor Roll Elite status with the American Heart Association (AHA), Get with the Guidelines (GWTG) for Stroke.

Whether it is the *U.S. News & World Report* or another certification body, our focus is on ensuring we utilize the best evidence and practices for the best patient outcomes. That ensures the quality and safety of our stroke care which we continue to provide to our community.

The stroke team at IU Health Bloomington includes ambulances, emergency nurses, emergency doctors, radiology, rehabilitation, and more. Specially trained to identify and care for strokes, their goal is to provide the best possible outcomes for these time-sensitive patients.

The new technology at the hospital, including computerized tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), helps us close the gap between stroke, diagnosis, and treatment to ensure fast and reliable care.

Other hospitals in the area, including our critical access hospitals in Paoli and Bedford, are essential to the stroke care roadmap in south-central Indiana.

That's where the second fact above comes into play.

Emergency medicine teams may work for different companies or organizations, but their primary concern is to do what is best for the patient. When they see a possible stroke, they know getting the patient to a stroke care facility as quickly as possible reduces the risk of severe disabilities or death.

In the case of our IU Health critical access hospitals, they use national standards to diagnose stroke patients and then work with our leading-edge LifeLine team to get those individuals to the stroke care team they need as fast as possible. That can be via ambulance or helicopter.

And as part of a strong and diverse statewide IU Health team, IU Health Bloomington is supported by other providers and hospitals in the event more specialized care is needed for their patients.

Speed is of the essence for people experiencing a stroke, and you are part of that care roadmap.

The most important thing to do when experiencing any stroke symptoms is to get to an emergency room. Calling 911 is best so these trained individuals can start collecting and relaying information to the awaiting care team. That way, they can begin treatment as soon as possible if you are having a stroke.

Please be FAST with strokes:

- Is your **F**ace drooping?
- Do you have **A**rm weakness?
- Do you have **S**lurred speech?
- **T**ime to call 911.

After all, minutes count when it's a stroke, and we provide the care you need when you need it most. ✨



New Hope Families



New Hope for Families facilities.

Celebrating 50 + 1 Years Of INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

- » Cedarview believes those investing in Bloomington should also invest philanthropically, as they see fit, within the city. Everyone is touched differently. That is what triggers a variety of fundraising and other thoughtful initiatives to benefit our town.
- » The Lewis family and Cedarview have supported New Hope since its early years, culminating in a \$100,000 gift in 2021 in celebration of Dr. George Lewis's 100th birth year.
- » In April 2022, the grand opening of the new shelter and child education buildings took place. The new facilities will provide housing and shelter for 12 families, with the average stay being three months—this means New Hope assists almost 50 families annually.
- » Recently, Cedarview and its CFO, Ken Ritchie, established the Lewis-Ritchie Opportunity Fund with a \$25,000 donation to assist the residents with job-related education.



(l-r) Dr. George and Sydel Lewis.



(l-r) Emily Pike, New Hope; Elliot Lewis, Cedarview; Ken Ritchie, Cedarview; and Jim Olsen, New Hope.



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contributors



Linda Margison WRITER: 17TH ANNUAL WEDDING GUIDE
Linda is a writer, editor, author, and video producer who enjoys telling people's stories. She fell in love with writing and storytelling as a child and has molded that passion into a lifelong career.



Carmen Siering WRITER: BLACK HISTORY—TELLING IT THE WAY IT WAS
Carmen is an independent writer and editor who has been contributing to Bloom since 2010. She was honored to serve as Bloom's managing editor, then executive editor, from July 2015 to November 2019. Over the years she has had the privilege to interview Gladys DeVane and Liz Mitchell multiple times. It's always enlightening. And delightful.

A Sign for the Times



Four years ago, Bloom offered this free sign to businesses in Bloomington. There were very few takers.

We are offering the signs again. The wording is legal. If you would like a sign for your shop, restaurant, or place of business, you can pick one up at the Bloom office, 414 W. 6th St., Monday–Thursday, 8 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Bloom

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About Bloom Magazine

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The 2022 Bloom Magazine Community Award Winners

During the Bloom Holiday Party at the Woolery Mill on December 13, *Bloom* founder, editor, and publisher Malcolm Abrams presented the 2022 Bloom Community Awards.

Bloom Magazine has four missions: to support local businesses, local charities, the arts, and diversity. The Bloom Community Awards were created to honor individuals who uphold these missions in Bloomington. The crystal awards have four pillars, each representing one of the Bloom missions.

THE 2022 AWARD WINNERS ARE:

Jeff Mease and Lennie Busch

Support of Local Businesses

Since opening their first restaurant, Pizza X, in 1982, Jeff Mease and Lennie Busch have been running an exemplary business. They own One World Enterprises, which includes seven Pizza X stores, Lennie's restaurant, Hive restaurant, One World KitchenShare, One World Catering, and One World at Woolery Mill.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when so many restaurant workers and others were laid off, Mease and Busch made sure that the unemployed workers and their families would not go hungry by instituting Operation Family Meal. With the help of other restaurateurs and food suppliers, they distributed close to 20,000 meals prepared by the One World staff to families across Monroe County, in addition to sending 130 meals to the night shift workers at the two local hospitals every night.

Elizabeth Mitchell, Gladys DeVane, and Danielle Bruce

Support of Diversity

Resilience Productions is a theater company created by three women who believe in the power of storytelling. Danielle Bruce, Gladys DeVane, and Elizabeth Mitchell share a mission to enlighten and engage the public regarding the many untold stories of African Americans throughout the state of Indiana. Together, they research, write, and produce live multimedia performances inspired by actual historical people and events.



The Bloom Community Awards recognize outstanding contributors toward supporting Bloom's four missions. The 2022 winners were (l-r) Lennie Busch and Jeff Mease for support of local business; Michael Shermis for support of local charities; Elizabeth Mitchell, Danielle Bruce, and Gladys DeVane for support of diversity; and Dave Weber and Krista Deter for support of local arts. Photo by Lisa Spencer

Krista Deter and Dave Weber

Support of the Arts

Krista Deter is an award-winning musician, composer, and writer and her husband, Dave, is an award-winning producer, engineer, and owner of Airtime Recording Studios. Together, the duo has worked for 15 years producing Krista Deter's Holiday Show, which raised thousands of dollars for local non-profit organizations.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Deter and Weber launched The Hundredth Hill Artist Residence & Retreat on their 50-acre farm. They hosted a group of New York University graduates in an outdoor staging of what would be the only live traditional theater experience anywhere in the country at the time.

Michael Shermis

Support of Charities

Michael Shermis is a part of countless nonprofit boards and volunteers his time and services hands-on. Some of these include being a board member at the Bloomington Rotary Foundation, as webmaster for the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk, an event chair for Hoosiers Outrun Cancer, a committee member for the Lotus Endowment Task Force, and a CASA volunteer advocate for four children. Shermis has been recognized with a National Distinguished Leadership Award, the Mary Alice Gray Memorial Award for exemplary volunteer service, the Keyway Award from the Bloomington Rotary Club, and the Melody Martin Awareness Saves Lives Award. ✨

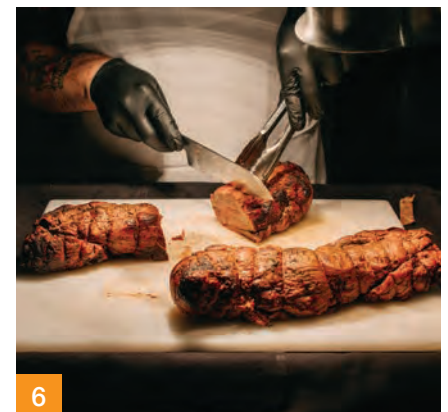


Each crystal pillar on the Bloom Community Award represents one of Bloom's four missions.

Bloom's 16th Annual Holiday Party

Photography by Lisa Spencer
One World at The Woolery was the site of Bloom's 16th annual holiday party. More than 250 civic and business leaders, educators, and members of the arts community attended the gala.

The evening featured holiday music by the Bloomington Chamber Singers and delectable fare from One World Catering. A merry time was had by all! ✨





7



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9



10



11



12

1. (l-r) Jane Clark, of Bailey Weiler Design + Build, along with MIRTH co-owners Amanda Hyde and Kelly Jennings.
2. The Bloomington Chamber Singers performed a number of holiday tunes to help liven the party.
3. (l-r) Crazy Horse Tavern owner Ron Stanhouse, Talisha Coppock with Monroe Convention Center and Downtown Bloomington Inc., Liz Stanhouse, and owners of the FAR Center for Contemporary Arts and The Elm restaurant, Martha and David Moore.
4. The City of Bloomington was well-represented by (l-r) Beverly Calender-Anderson, Shatoya Moss, Mary Catherine Carmichael, Bloom Community Award winner Michael Shermis, Rose Smith, and Kaisa Goodman.
5. The spread of food selections on the "grazing table" was very popular among attendees.
6. A One World Catering chef carves the delicious beef tenderloin with red wine bordelaise.
7. Bloom Community Award winner Danielle Bruce (right) and her brother, playwright T.K. Lee (left), ham it up for our party photographer.
8. (l-r) Bloom Founder and Editor Malcolm Abrams visits with Lacey Grant and her husband, John Robert Armstrong with Constellation Stage & Screen, and Ron Remak of Bill C. Brown Associates.
9. One World at Woolery Mill provided a terrific space for eating, mingling, and reveling among partygoers.
10. (l-r) Don Weiler of Bailey Weiler Design + Build, with Christina Hurlow and John Hurlow with Hurlow Wealth Management Group.
11. (l-r) Indiana University Director of Media Relations Chuck Carney visits with IU President Emeritus Michael McRobbie and First Lady Emerita Laurie Burns McRobbie.
12. (l-r) Doug Eibling and Samantha Eibling, co-founder of Bloomington Yoga Collective and co-owner of Goods for Cooks.



Jenny Vaughan.
Courtesy photo

Ivy Tech-Bloomington Chancellor Vaughan Retiring

After more than 25 years at Ivy Tech Community College-Bloomington, the final nine as chancellor, Jennie Vaughan will retire at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

Vaughan was named chancellor on May 1, 2014, after working in several positions for the college, including vice chancellor for student affairs, executive director for administration, and executive director of human resources. She has more than 40 years of experience in higher education, beginning at the University of San Francisco.

“Providing opportunities for students to achieve their career goals and improve their lives has been my life’s work in higher education,” Vaughan says in a press release from the college. “Seeing our graduates walk across the stage at commencement is the highlight of my tenure as Chancellor.”

Vaughan was the subject of a cover feature in the August/September 2014 issue of *Bloom*.



Courtesy image

WTIU/WFIU News Partners with Report for America

WFIU/WTIU News has been selected as a Report for America host newsroom partner. WFIU/WTIU News will join an expanding network of some 220 newsrooms benefiting from the support of this nonprofit program. Through the partnership, WFIU/WTIU News will expand its coverage of higher education.

Report for America is a national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on under-covered issues and communities. It is an initiative of The GroundTruth Project, a nonprofit media organization, and is structured to combine the skills and idealism of an emerging group of journalists with the creative spirit of local news organizations.

Report for America is a two-year program (with an option for three). Beyond paying up to half of the journalists’ salaries, it provides ongoing training and mentorship by leading journalists, peer networking, and memberships in select professional organizations.



Grace McKay.
Courtesy photo

Two from Bloomington South Named 2023 Lilly Scholars

The Community Foundation of Bloomington & Monroe County has announced that Jake Keller and Grace McKay are the recipients of the 2023 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarships for Monroe County. “Each year, we are inspired by the accomplishments of our community’s young people, and this year is no exception,” says Community Foundation President and CEO Tina Peterson in a press release. “Jake and Grace have both demonstrated excellence in academics, leadership, and service.”

Keller is a senior at Bloomington High School South (BHSS), where he is president of Dance Marathon and co-founder of the Community Outreach Association. He is a member of National Honor Society, the BHSS cross country and track and field teams, and Songs of South.

McKay is also a BHSS senior. She is captain of the school’s girls’ soccer team and a member of National Honor Society, the basketball team, and unified track and field teams. She is a student leader with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Best Buddies, and the DECA clubs.

Each Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship provides full tuition, required fees, and a special allocation of up to \$900 per year for required books and required equipment for four years. Eight other finalists will each receive \$1,000 scholarships.



Jake Keller.
Courtesy photo

Charlotte Zietlow’s New Book Released

The grande dame of Bloomington politics had to have an origin story. In her new book, *1971: How We Won*, Charlotte Zietlow recounts the history of her first run for office. The memoir, published by Penn&Ink, is a 220-page look back at the election that permanently changed the politics and governance of Bloomington.

That year, Zietlow led a band of political newcomers, including eventual three-term mayor Frank McCloskey, to a near-sweep of the City’s 11 elected offices, ousting every incumbent but one. Zietlow, derisively called a “Ph.D. housewife” by her critics, also became the first woman president of the Bloomington City Council.

“Although the times have changed, many of the concerns of the city really haven’t,” says Zietlow, who also served as a Monroe County commissioner for two terms in the 1980s and ran for Congress and for mayor of Bloomington. *1971: How We Won* is currently available at The Book Corner, Morgenstern’s Books, and at Amazon and other online booksellers. Visit pennandink.us.



1971: *How We Won*.
Courtesy image



Jordy the CASA dog.
Photo by Nicole McPheeters

Jordy the CASA Dog Dies Unexpectedly at Age 8

Jordy, the facility dog for Monroe County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), died unexpectedly on Tuesday, January 3, surrounded by his family. He was 8 years old.

Jordy was trained through the Indiana Canine Assistant Network, an elite training program accredited by Assistance Dogs International. That training allowed him to remain passive in high-stress situations as he accompanied children to courthouse proceedings.

“Jordy provided a special kind of support to children that humans couldn’t, and he did it with his hugs, tricks, or simply being present to make children feel supported when they needed it most,” says Tia Arthur, Jordy’s handler. “We will honor Jordy’s legacy by continuing to fiercely advocate for this most vulnerable population in our community.”

Bloom published a story about Jordy in the February/March 2020 issue.



I read your editorial about John Mellencamp. There was a sentence I found interesting. “I don’t care if you are Jewish, Black, white, tutti-frutti.” I too believe silence is complicity in many areas, but, I was confused why the last words, “white and tutti-frutti” were not capitalized as well. Like, the first two words.

I guess Silence really is complicity as long as it is applied to only a few and not really everyone. Sad and Scary.

ANGELA SMITH

The Associated Press Style Guide, used by most newspapers and magazines, does not designate “white” or “tutti-frutti” as words to be capitalized. —the editor

Once again, a spot-on editorial [December/January]. I never listened to Mellencamp (as I recall, his music was too “white-boy”) but, like you, I am now a fan. Thanks for writing about it.

LINN BROESSEL

I just received a copy of the December/January edition of *Bloom*. The story [about Alfred Kinsey and Ross Lockridge Jr.] is a triumph. Thanks so very much for all the hard work. Talk about an eye-catching cover! My father would be happy, I’m sure, to have obliged.

LARRY LOCKRIDGE

The article on Kinsey and Lockridge is really good. You [author

Carmen Siering] told me things about both that I didn’t know—that Lockridge was supposed to write a dissertation at Harvard on Whitman, for example (makes sense in my most recent understanding of the novel), and that IU President Herman B Wells gave Kinsey the choice of teaching or research (and thus coaxed him out of talking about sex to undergraduates). The article is well researched and well written, and you put all you know into a very well-managed story. Congratulations on an excellent piece of writing.

DON GRAY

Just received my latest *Bloom* today. I read that you folks received an award for diversity. Couldn’t think of a more worthy group to have achieved that. Mazel Tov.

MELINDA WEINBERG

Gun Free Environment! Just saw it in your Rag. Good thing Greenwood Mall wasn’t that stupid or a lot more people would be dead!!

JACK WARBURTON

WHOA!

Who gave you people permission to make me older than I already was?

I mean you people, mostly in medieval-looking black robes, who proclaim that a life begins at the moment of conception, and only then.

Listen. I’ve been bracing for my 90th birthday, which will be in May. Soon enough.

Now you tell me I’m already 90, because I became a human being about September 1932, when I was conceived, not May 1933 when I was born.

So you’re declaring me nine months older than I thought, and older than all the certificates say.

And it’s not just me. You’re making everybody nine months older!

Are you going to come to our door and tell my wife she’s an 81-year-old matron, instead of the nubile 80-year-old beauty we think she is?

Also I think of all those other things that would have been different if I’d known.

I could have been voting, buying smokes, drinking and driving a year earlier. I could have gone to Korea sooner.

I object! Time served in the womb should not be added to what’s already a life sentence!

JAMES ALEXANDER THOM

"In our town, **we like to know** the facts about everybody." —Thornton Wilder, *Our Town*

Maqubè Reese

President,
Monroe
County
NAACP



(above) Maqubè Reese speaks on September 14, 2022, at a vigil for reproductive freedom after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. Photo by Rodney Margison (right) Reese graced the cover of *Bloom*'s February/March 2021 issue, "Black Women of Bloomington." Photo by Martin Boling



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by Susan M. Brackney

At 31, Maqubè (ma-QUEE-ba) Reese has already accomplished a lot. She's the Indiana University Kelley School of Business associate director of diversity initiatives, founder and CEO of Tribe Consulting, and the newly named—and first female—president of the Monroe County NAACP.

She's also the 13th sparrow.

A reference to the Christian hymn "His Eye Is on The Sparrow," the song is particularly significant to Reese and her 12 older siblings. "Our mom was the first one to pass away and then my dad passed," the Fort Wayne, Indiana, native explains. "So, the '13 sparrows' [reminds] us that 'His Eye Is on The Sparrow'—meaning Jesus is with us, no matter what."

"Everything I tie myself to—whether it's serving as NAACP president, writing books, writing articles, being involved in the community, teaching—that, to me, is my love letter to my parents," Reese continues. "'This is what you instilled in me.' I get to show the world how amazing they were through the work that I do."

The IU alumna earned a human development and family studies B.S. in 2014 and a Master of Social Work in 2020. She now serves as an adjunct faculty member at IU's schools of education and social work. Reese also contributed to *Overworked and Undervalued: Black Women and Success* by Drs. Rosalyn Davis and Sharon Bowman. "What I love about this book is that we provided sound advice about how you navigate and move forward," she says.

From her collaborative projects to her corporate consulting and beyond, a practical, solution-oriented focus permeates Reese's work. "It all goes back to being resourceful," she says. "Resources provide access. Access can provide economic stability for families and it can also provide an opportunity for people to receive the support that they need."

Via Tribe Consulting, such support includes training for entities working to develop more diverse, inclusive environments. But, just as Reese works to support others, she's quick to acknowledge the support she's received, too. "A ton of people [helped get] me here," she says. "They did not dim my light, and I appreciate that."

When she's not working, Reese hangs with family and her standard poodle, Kovu Boseman. She also makes time to rest, regroup, and celebrate joy. "You can do all this hard work, but if you don't celebrate the wins, it's for nothing," Reese notes. "You have to have joy!" ✨



James ‘Snooki’ Hopkins

First Black Firefighter



James “Snooki” Hopkins, 86, became the first Black firefighter for the City of Bloomington in 1965.
Photo by Martin Boling

by Carmen Siering

Stories of Blacks breaking the local color barrier abound in Bloomington. James “Snooki” Hopkins’ story is one of them. In 1965, the Rev. Ernest Butler, pastor at Second Baptist Church, encouraged the 29-year-old Hopkins to apply to be the first Black firefighter with the Bloomington Fire Department (BFD).

Born in 1936, Hopkins was a 1954 graduate of Bloomington High School, where he was a football standout. He accepted a football scholarship to the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and played there for three years before leaving to get married. He and his wife, Lenora, returned to Bloomington in 1960. By then, they had three children—twin girls and a young son. Another daughter would be born after their arrival. Until 1965, he worked as a janitor at Indiana University.

His daughter LaDonna Hopkins, 64, shares that his first year at Bloomington Fire Station No. 2, 105 S. Rogers St. (now the location of Lotus Education and Arts Foundation), was the hardest.

“None of the other firefighters wanted to sleep in the same room with him,” she says. “They didn’t want to eat with him.”

LaDonna was 7 years old when her father started with the BFD.

“My siblings and I were afraid,” she says. “I can remember waking up to go to school and there was literature all over

our front yard—papers telling our dad they didn’t want him on the fire department, KKK stuff. One time a small cross had been burnt in the yard.”

At one point, LaDonna says, her father wanted to quit.

“But he stuck it out,” she says. “He might have quit if it hadn’t been for Rev. Butler, who talked to him and prayed with him and told him that quitting is what they wanted him to do.”

There were happier moments associated with her father’s occupation, too.

“I remember Fire Prevention Week,” she says. “I was so proud to see my dad coming to school for that.”

Hopkins was promoted to captain of Station No. 2 in 1985, and retired in 1991.

“He enjoyed being on the fire department,” LaDonna says. “And later, he encouraged other Blacks to apply.”

Now 86, Hopkins lives in Bloomington with his second wife, Louise, and sings in the choir at Second Baptist Church, the same church where Rev. Butler preached for many years. ✧



A family portrait from the 1970s with (front, l-r) James “Snooki” Hopkins, his wife, Lenora, and (back, l-r) children Rodney, VaTonia, LaDonna, and Marcia. Courtesy photo



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Jordan Hulls IU Basketball Recruiting Coordinator

by Jeremy Price

At age 32, retirement as a basketball player wasn't yet on Jordan Hulls' radar.

However, a phone call last spring changed everything for the Bloomington High School South and Indiana University grad. Now he's in the midst of his first season as IU men's basketball's team and recruiting coordinator instead of playing his 10th season of professional basketball overseas.

"I would've played another two or three years, and I fully planned on continuing to play," Hulls says. "IU was the only place that would make me stop playing basketball. That's the only reason why I quit playing. I think that's a huge testament to Coach Mike Woodson and the staff. Everybody told me how great he is to work for and what's going on here."

Hulls was Indiana's Mr. Basketball in 2009 after leading Bloomington South to a 26-0 record and the Class 4A Indiana state championship. At IU, he joined new head coach Tom Crean in rebuilding the Hoosiers from a scandal-ridden, six-win season in 2008 to eventually winning the 2013 Big Ten Conference championship and twice reaching the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament. He then played professionally in Poland, Kosovo, Belgium, and Germany.

"Coming back home was a huge deal," Hulls says. "My parents aren't getting any younger, my kids [ages 5, 3, and 2, with a baby due in May] are getting older, and I missed a lot playing overseas. It's been awesome being back home. This was the first Thanksgiving I've spent in America since college."

Indiana made the hiring official in May of 2022; Hulls started his new job on June 14.

"There's a handful of things I'm involved with," he says. "Mostly I get in touch and build relationships with younger recruits,



Former Indiana University basketball star Jordan Hulls has returned to Assembly Hall as the team's team and recruiting coordinator. Photo by Rodney Margison

and that includes creating itineraries for official and unofficial visits. It's cool that I can talk about a school I love and played for, because I know how it is here."

Hulls had never met Woodson before the summer of 2021, although he knew very well who he was from alumni golf outings and

the like. "It's a brotherhood—once you play here, you are part of it forever," he says.

"It's an adjustment, no doubt, not playing basketball, something I've done my whole life," he adds. "But I'm still part of what I've done my whole life, just on the other side." ✨



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IU Jacobs School of Music Presents World Premiere of Anne Frank Opera

The world premiere of the first full-scale opera about Anne Frank comes to the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music March 3, 4, 9, and 10, where audiences will see and hear Anne—a writer, lover of dance, and teen Holocaust victim—along with her family and others.

The creators of *Anne Frank*—Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Shulamit Ran, librettist Charles Kondek, and IU's Arthur Fagen—along with Tim Stebbins, executive director of production for IU Music Opera and Ballet Theater, worked together to push through the red tape and secure the permissions needed to allow the work to be created and staged at IU.

Fagen, who conducts the opera, is himself the son of Holocaust survivors. His parents endured, thanks to German Catholic industrialist Oskar Schindler. Fagen worked on developing a rapport with the person who had the power to approve production of such an opera, Buddy Elias. Elias was Anne Frank's first cousin and her last surviving close family member prior to his death in 2015. He served on the Board of Trustees and as president of the Anne Frank Fonds—a Swiss foundation Anne's father founded in 1963—and made a mission of protecting Anne's legacy.

The opera is neither an interpretation of Anne's diary nor a reworking of the books ▶



(above) Anne Frank's passport photo, the last known picture made of her, taken in May 1942. Courtesy photo (far left) Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Shulamit Ran wrote the music for the upcoming opera *Anne Frank* that will debut in March at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Photo by Valerie Booth (left) IU's Arthur Fagen, a son of Holocaust survivors, conducts the opera. Courtesy photo

about the Franks, the doomed family who hid from the Nazis for 25 months before being captured and sent to concentration camps. Anne and her sister, Margot, died just months later. Anne's father, Otto, was the only survivor—along with Anne's diary.

Librettist Kondek has used few of Anne's words from her diary, although the production remains faithful to the Franks' story. "[The creative process] was very difficult," Kondek says, "because the Anne Frank House didn't want us to do it." Founded in 1957 by Otto Frank, The Anne Frank House organization manages the museum in the Netherlands building where the Franks hid from 1942 to 1944.

Composer Ran, who is from Israel, says she wrote most of the opera about Anne's radiance. "Anne Frank spent the last two years of her short life, between the age of 13 and 15, typically a time of blossoming and maturation, living with seven other people in a small space where even looking out the window was a forbidden act, fraught with danger," she says, adding that she imagined what the characters would have felt and how she needed "to become Anne Frank."

"The opera opens in a concentration camp," says Kondek. All the roles—soloists, chorus, and orchestra—are performed by Jacobs School students.

"Anne was a very happy girl," Kondek continues, adding that her arias, therefore, reflect that. Two sopranos, Kate Johnson and Anne Slovin, will share the title role, performing on different nights. Slovin says the opera largely concerns Anne's daily life: "Anne argues with her sister, Margot; dreams about dancing like Ginger Rogers; celebrates Chanukah with her family; has a crush on a boy; and experiences puberty."

The opera flashes—here and there—with humor. For instance, Slovin says she enjoys "the potato scene," where everyone laments the daily tuber meals.

Retelling stories of the Holocaust helps to keep it in the public's consciousness, Slovin says. This version of the story differs from others by including images, voices, and names of prisoners besides Anne.

Anne Frank will be performed at the IU Musical Arts Center, 101 N. Eagleson Ave. Tickets are \$10–\$35. Visit operaballet.indiana.edu/events/anne-frank for more information. —*Connie Shakalis*

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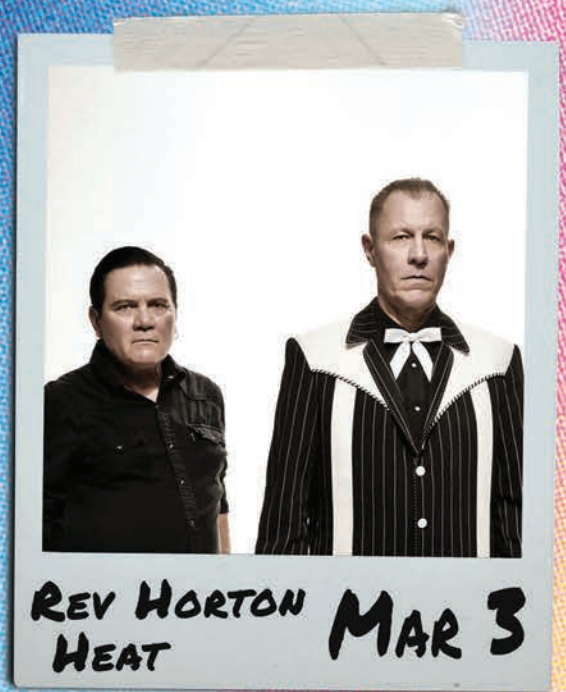


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‘Both Sides of Joni’ CD by the Late Janiece Jaffe And Monika Herzig



(above) A promotional poster for the upcoming CD *Both Sides of Joni*, a jazz reimagining of some of Joni Mitchell's deepest and most enduring music, performed by Monika Herzig and the late Janiece Jaffe, who died unexpectedly last November; (above right) the cover of the CD, which is scheduled to be released on April 15. Courtesy images

In 2020, renowned Bloomington vocalist and sound healer Janiece Jaffe dug once more into the music of Joni Mitchell, one of her lifelong favorite artists and musical inspirations.

“I think she was sitting down with her youngest son, Jurian, and just listening to *Sweet Bird* and looking at the lyrics,” explains Monika Herzig, a long-time friend. Jaffe died unexpectedly at age 64 after heart surgery last November.

Herzig is an internationally acclaimed jazz pianist who was a frequent collaborator with Jaffe. “She came back to me and said, ‘These lyrics! We need to make sure people get this. They need to understand these words and what this really means.’ And so, we embarked on an adventure.”

The adventure was the album *Both Sides of Joni*—due to release this spring—which reimagines some of Mitchell's deepest and most enduring music in a jazz style. The duo's first full album together in 34 years of friendship, *Both Sides of Joni* was funded via Kickstarter and recorded at Bloomington's Airtime Studios in December 2021, following more than a year of practicing, planning, and arranging. Along with *Sweet Bird*, the album includes *Both Sides Now*, *River*, *The Circle Game*, *Help Me, My Old Man*, and more.

In addition to Jaffe on vocals and Herzig on piano, other contributors include Greg Ward (saxophone), Carolyn Dutton (violin), Jeremy Allen (bass), and Cassius Goens III (drums), with a special bass guest appearance by Peter Kienle. Jaffe's son Chip Reardon mixed and mastered the tracks.

Upon Jaffe's death, however, Herzig and Jaffe's children were faced with the decision of what to do with the album. “We all thought, ‘This is her dream. This is what she wanted,’” Herzig says. “She okayed everything. We had the final tracks, we had the final cover design, and she saw all of it and she said, ‘Yep that's it.’ So, what this means now is being able to share her legacy and make sure she's remembered in this beautiful way.”

A release concert for *Both Sides of Joni* is planned for April 15 at The Jazz Kitchen in Indianapolis.

Herzig hopes those who listen to *Both Sides of Joni* will pay close attention to the lyrics.

“What people will hopefully hear is Janiece's beautiful voice and her beautiful spirit and talent and musicality,” Herzig says. “Memory fades quickly and sometimes too quickly. I'm going to do everything to get this album out as far and wide as possible.”

Visit monikaherzig.com for more information.

—Sophie Bird

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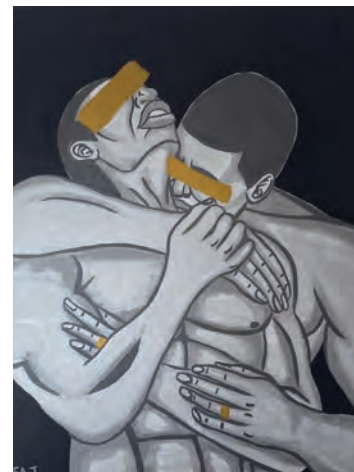
Eric Agyemang-Dua

Telling Black Stories

by Sophie Bird

Taking inspiration from mythology and Bible stories, artist Eric Agyemang-Dua, 26, uses acrylic paint and Sharpies to create colorful, symbolic paintings that shed light on “different phenomena and circumstances in the Black and African community in America,” he says.

Agyemang-Dua, who moved to Bloomington last August to pursue a master’s ▶



(top, right) The artist Eric Agyemang-Dua. Photo by Kathryn Coers Rossman (this page and opposite page)
Examples of Agyemang-Dua's work. Courtesy of the artist



degree in mental health counseling at Indiana University, says he sees art as a tool for healing and restoration. Much of his recent work has dealt with perceptions of Black manhood and fatherhood, particularly in relation to the trope of the absentee Black father.

“My father pretty much had to rebuild everything from scratch to provide for four children,” says Agyemang-Dua, recalling his family’s move from Ghana to the United States when he was a child. “His story would never be told. I want to tell better stories in order to set better standards.”

His painting *Black Father's Day* comes to mind. Inspired by the Japanese practice kintsugi, which involves binding broken objects together with gold, the painting depicts a group of Black fathers with gold-veined skin.

“The philosophy behind it is that there’s beauty in being able to fix instead of just throwing something away,” Agyemang-Dua explains.

A common element in many of his pieces are gold bars painted across the subjects’ eyes, which he says is to maintain focus on the body language and artifacts in the paintings. “The ‘censors,’ as I call them, have become part of my signature as an artist,” he says.

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Aaron Cain of WFIU-FM New Classical Music Host

by Peter Dorfman

Arts commentators have long bemoaned the declining audience for classical music. But Aaron Cain, the new host of *Morning Music* on WFIU-FM, that assessment rings hollow as classical music has always had a hard time finding huge audiences. “Classical music has been a money-losing proposition for 500 or 600 years,” Cain says. “For most of the history of classical music, they just called it ‘music.’ It’s always evolving, and it’s always found an audience.”


Cain joined WFIU in August 2017, after his wife, Joanna Blendulf, was recruited by Indiana University’s Jacobs School of Music to teach Baroque cello and viola da gamba at its Historical Performance Institute.



“For Joanna, it was a homecoming,” Cain says. “She got her degree from the Jacobs School, and to go back and teach there was a dream come true. Luckily, WFIU was looking for a few new people, and I became their *Morning Edition* host.”

A native of Iowa City, Iowa, Cain earned his doctorate and master’s degrees in music from the University of Oregon. A classical singer by profession, he taught at the University of Alabama, Huntsville, for three years. “My wife was traveling a lot



Aaron Cain is the new host of classical music show *Morning Music* on WFIU-FM, taking over for longtime host George Walker when he retired last year. Photo by Martin Boling


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as a musician, and none of her gigs were in Alabama. So we never saw each other. We moved to Portland [Oregon], thinking we were both going to make it solely as musicians—and then immediately she got the job in Bloomington.”

Two years ago, WFIU’s music director left, and Cain moved into that position. “I program the music we create locally—essentially that means I ensure that everyone is accurately credited for what they create.”

The *Morning Music* host when Cain joined the station was George Walker. When Walker retired in 2022, WFIU offered that role to Cain. “George has been Bloomington’s devoted, steadfast source for classical music knowledge for half a century. I’m in awe of what he accomplished. I hope I can be worthy of that legacy in some small way.”

Cain, 51, hopes to incorporate more live and recorded music from the Jacobs School in WFIU’s programming, including in-studio live performances by small ensembles. “The audience for music in Bloomington is pretty discerning,” he says. “Because we have the Jacobs School, they’ve encountered music that people in other communities might not have encountered. That resource needs to be more widely recognized.” ✨

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Holocaust-Era Movie to Film At Zaharakos Ice Cream Parlor

For all of the 20th century, Hoosiers enjoyed sweet treats at the famous Zaharakos Ice Cream Parlor in Columbus, Indiana. Now that ornate Victorian emporium is slated to be a movie set—for a wholly different story. Thanks to Netherlands-based film producer Robert Moniot and Columbus industrialist and philanthropist Tony Moravec, Zaharakos is set to stand in for an opulent Jewish-owned ice cream parlor in Amsterdam, the site of a seminal act of resistance to the Nazis in World War II. *The Ice Cream Man* is the name of the film.

In the 1930s, Amsterdam's popular



Zaharakos Ice Cream Parlor in Columbus, Indiana, will become a movie set when Netherlands-based producer Robert Moniot films part of *The Ice Cream Man* there beginning in March. *Courtesy photo*



(l-r) The late Tony Moravec, owner of Zaharakos; Elliot Lewis, Bloomington businessman and owner of Cedarview Management; and producer of the film *The Ice Cream Man*, Rob Moniot. *Photo by Douglas A. Wissing*

Café Koko was owned by Ernst Cahn, who had moved his German Jewish family to Amsterdam to escape Nazi persecution only to encounter the May 1940 Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. On February 19, 1941, the Nazi Ordnungspolizei raided Café Koko for being a center of resistance to anti-Jewish laws. A group inside confronted the German police, spraying them with ammonia. Led by SS officer Franz Barbie (later infamous as the Butcher of Lyon), the Nazis retaliated by rounding up 425 Jews in the Waterlooplein Jewish quarter and deporting them to the Buchenwald concentration camp. Reaction to the roundup ignited Europe's largest mass protest against Nazi oppression. Organized by the radical left and trade unions, the Amsterdam General Strike of February

25-27, 1941, shut down the city. After torturing Cahn, the Nazis executed him by firing squad in the Wassenaar Dunes near the Hague on March 3, 1941.

This 21st-century collaboration between the Netherlands and America is ultimately a confluence of immigrant stories: Just as the Cahn family emigrated to escape Nazi terror, the Zaharakos family were early 20th-century Greek refugees who fled the Balkan wars during the Ottoman Empire's chaotic collapse. While most Greeks who came to America migrated to large cities, many settled in small Midwestern towns like Columbus, where the Zaharakos became beloved confectioners and soda-fountain kings.

By 2006, however, the Zaharakos Soda Fountain was in disrepair and closed. But Columbus' grand emporium

got a reprieve. The late pharmaceutical industrialist Tony Moravec decided to revive it. The century-old business got an award-winning restoration and was recast as a soda fountain museum with an array of antique artifacts. When the ice cream parlor reopened in June 2009 Hoosiers could once again enjoy Zaharakos' old-fashioned sodas and sloppy joes while learning about America's enduring affection for ice cream parlors.

Ice Cream Man writer, director, and producer Robert Moniot (pronounced Mon-Yō) describes himself as "an entertainment kid," who grew up in movie-crazed Los Angeles, where he worked in films from his boyhood. Now living in the Netherlands with his U.S. diplomat wife, Moniot became obsessed with the story of Cahn and his resistance to the Nazis. Hammering out a screenplay, Moniot entered it into the German Claims Commission's contest to help finance short films about the Holocaust. In 2022 Moniot's *Ice Cream Man* was selected as the winner of the \$50,000 top prize. Moniot searched to find an old-fashioned ice cream parlor similar to Café Koco. When he encountered photos of the restored Zaharakos, he realized he'd found his movie set. Zaharakos was "eerily similar" to Café Koco, Moniot says. When the filmmaker contacted Zaharakos, he found enthusiastic supporters in Moravec and his friend, Bloomington businessman Elliot Lewis.

And that's how a movie about a Jewish-owned ice cream parlor in Amsterdam will end up being filmed in an ice cream parlor in Columbus.

"I feel good about it," Moravec told *Bloom* shortly before he died, "It's got good momentum." Lewis introduced Moniot at fundraising events, including an Indianapolis Holocaust Remembrance dinner, where the movie gained further support.

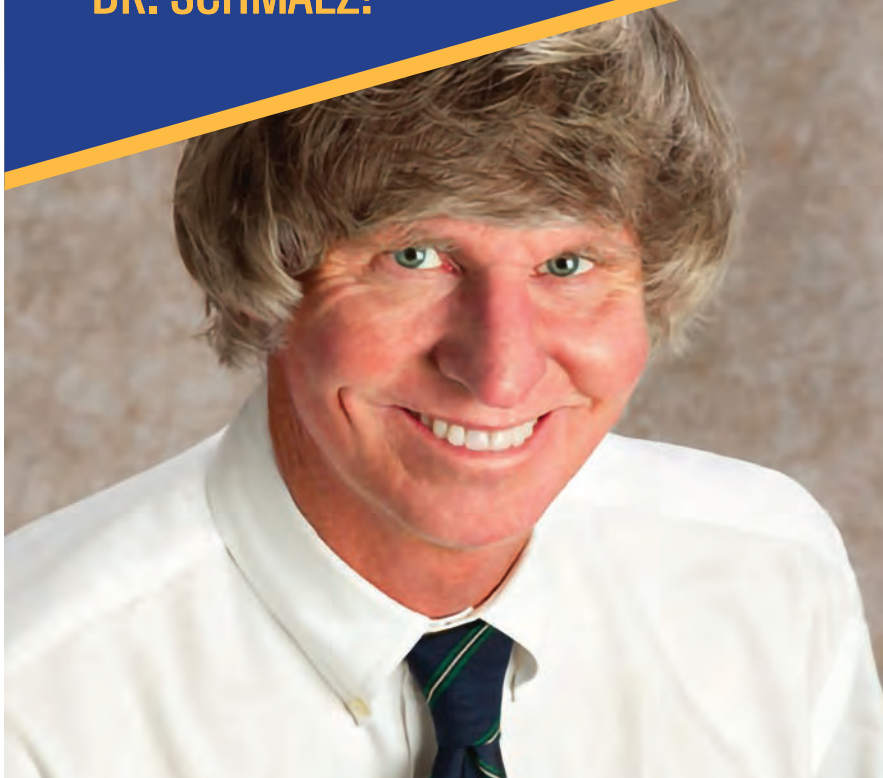
Moravec unexpectedly died of natural causes at age 72 on November 9, 2022.

There was scarcely a pause before the Moravec family decided that the show must go on. A crew of 40 to 60 filmmakers and actors are scheduled to begin shooting *The Ice Cream Man* in March. The restored Zaharakos will be reborn as Café Koco, the Indiana Dunes will stand in for the Wassenaar Dunes, and the Bartholomew County courthouse might figure in a scene or two. It is what Tony Moravec would have wanted, says Lewis.

—Douglas A. Wissing

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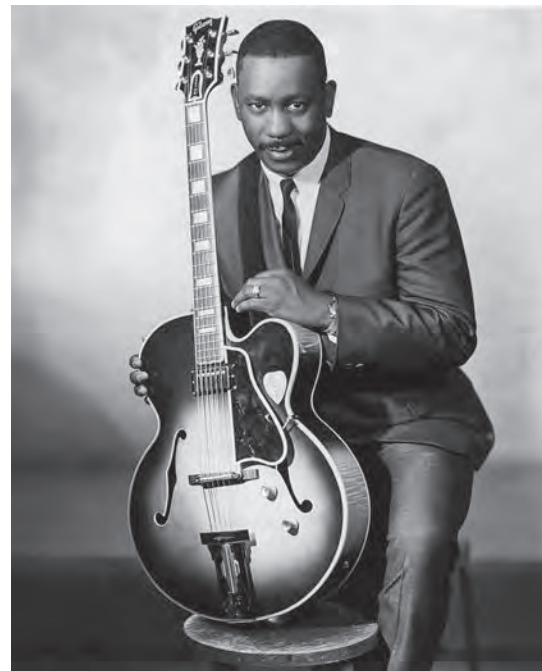
WTIU-TV to Air Documentary On Jazz Great Wes Montgomery

by Craig Coley

John Leslie “Wes” Montgomery was the rare jazz musician to receive critical acclaim and commercial success. One hundred years after his birth, the Indianapolis native is being re-appraised in a documentary that will premier in March on WTIU-TV alongside a tribute concert film performed by Indiana University students and faculty.

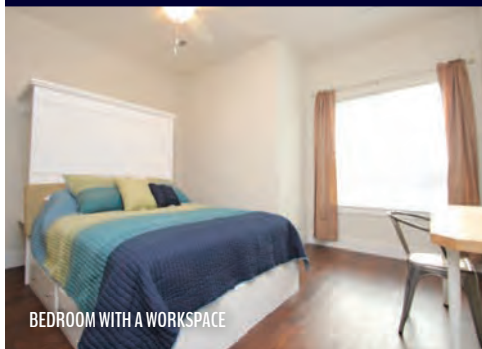
Born in 1923, Montgomery taught himself to play guitar, developing a warm, thumb-picked tone that was as distinctive as the solos he built of chords, making him “sound like the sax section of a big band,” says IU jazz guitar lecturer Dave Stryker. After a brief tour with vibraphonist Lionel Hampton, Montgomery opted for a settled life with his wife and seven children. Settled, but no less grueling—Montgomery had what documentarian Kevin Finch calls a “monster work ethic.” He barely slept between his day job as a welder, nights gigging along Indianapolis’ storied Indiana Avenue, and early mornings playing in after-hours clubs. It was at one of those after-hours shows in 1958 that saxophonist Julian “Cannonball” Adderley discovered him, launching a recording career that ended with Montgomery’s death in 1968.

Finch, a journalism professor whose documentaries include *A Writer’s Roots: Kurt Vonnegut’s Indianapolis*, was astonished to learn that Montgomery had never received documentary treatment. With backing from WTIU, Finch unearthed concert footage and interviewed Montgomery’s widow, Serene; his son Robert; and many musicians. “The man has been gone for more than 50 years, but musicians around the world still get emotional



Jazz great Wes Montgomery will be the subject of a documentary on WTIU-TV celebrating the 100th anniversary of his birth. Photo by Bruno of Hollywood for Verve Records

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when they talk about Wes,” Finch says. “He had a reputation as a righteous dude. Here’s this guy who does amazing work, and really kind of reinvented the instrument, and he was known as an approachable, likable guy.”

WTIU producer Todd Gould conceived a contemporary concert video to accompany the documentary. IU jazz studies professor Brent Wallarab wrote new arrangements for some tunes and used original charts for others. Stryker—who says a Montgomery concert recording first turned him on to jazz guitar—performed as the featured soloist in various settings: big band; big band with strings; and trio with organ and drums.

“Wes’ original recordings are fantastic,” Wallarab says, “and they will always be the ultimate documentation of the genius of these great musicians. But in order for the music to maintain a certain amount of life and relevancy, it has to be performed live.”

The documentary, *Wes Bound*, and the concert film, *Wes Montgomery at 100: a 100th Birthday Tribute Concert*, will premier in March on WTIU. ✨

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The Waldron Remodel Is Fabulous, Darling!

The remodeled John Waldron Arts Center reopened last October 13 under the management of Constellation Stage & Screen after a several-month closure for renovations.

“Most notable is that we turned the facility from a city hall, police station, and community college—with an institutional feel—into a true community arts center that feels like it’s the home of arts and entertainment ▶



(this page and opposite page) Bloomington's Third Eye Design chose art deco as the style for renovations to the John Waldron Arts Center. New features include a lounge with full-service bar and baby grand piano, and a box office that was built into the historic Waldron safes. *Photos by Icarus Photography*



from the second you walk in the doors,” explains Chad Rabinovitz, artistic director of new works for Constellation. He says new features include a central box office “quite literally built into the historic Waldron safes,” a lounge with a baby grand piano and full-service bar, and the seats in the Whitehart Auditorium.

Third Eye Design fashioned the renovations with an eye toward

art deco, the style around when The Waldron was built. Rubicon was the contractor. More than 150 people were employed in the renovations, which were funded by \$515,000 in deferred maintenance from the City of Bloomington—which owns the building—and around \$750,000 from Constellation.

—Rodney Margison



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**June 9, 1958–
November 23, 2022**

—*∞*—

Janiece Lyn Jaffe passed away on November 23, 2022, at age 64 after undergoing heart surgery in Carmel, Indiana. Janiece is survived by her four children: Charles “Chip” R. Reardin IV, Julia M. Reardin, Celina E. Jaffe, and Jurion H. Jaffe (Josh Field); former husbands Charles “Rich” Reardin III, Christopher Jaffe, and Donald Burns; brother Kent Miller; sisters Vickie Fry and Meeshy Roberts and their families; many beloved aunts, uncles, and cousins; and her vast community of cherished friends and spiritual family.

Janiece always said she lived many lives in one. She was a pillar in the musical and healing communities in Bloomington for more than 30 years. She practiced Buddhism (SGI) with her whole heart, chanting “Nam-myoho-rence-kyo” daily from the age of 16. She treasured the person right in front of her and in this way made countless meaningful connections.

Her mission in life was to share her love of humanity through sound. After running a home day care while raising her four children, Janiece followed her heart’s desire and embarked on a career as a jazz vocalist. She earned a B.A. in vocal jazz performance from Indiana University, an individualized major that

she created under the mentorship of David Baker. Throughout her jazz career, she collaborated with many great artists, including Freddie Hubbard, Dominic Spera, Keter Betts, and Al Cobine.

Janiece recorded 12 albums and was a guest vocalist on more than 25 other recordings. She also wrote original lyrics for a variety of works. In collaboration with Monika Herzig, Janiece’s final offering is a tribute to one of her first musical influences, Joni Mitchell.

As a part of her musical journey, Janiece studied improvisational singing with Janet Lawson, Bobby McFerrin, and Rhiannon. Expanding this spirit of play, she explored sound healing with vocal toning and crystal bowls and this became an integral part of her healing practice. Janiece truly used her voice as a healing instrument. She trained groups in reiki and merkaba meditation, as well as assisting many of her close friends and their families in easing the passing of loved ones.

Janiece will be remembered for the love and light she shared and the uncountable lives she touched.

Oldie Band Gregory's Xit Rockin' Better Than Ever!



Gregory's Xit will perform February 11 at Tivoli Theatre in Spencer, Indiana. Band members include (l-r) Craig Young, Jay Strawder, Gordon Creech, Gregory Washel, Giovanni Washel, and Bill Williams. Photo by Jim Krause

At a time when most bands would be winding down in their career, Bloomington rockers Gregory's Xit, with several members playing together since the 1980s, is just ramping up.

The group's five original members—singer Gordon Creech, drummer Jay Strawder, Gregory Washel on rhythm guitar, bassist Bill Williams, and guitarist Craig Young—put out their self-titled debut album in 2015. At that point, the band still saw music as more of a hobby.

Since then, they have released two more studio albums, *Infection* and *Another Day of Hope*, and a third is on the way—the first single, “Cry on You,” was released last year and was on the official ballot for Best Rock Performance for the 2022 Grammy Awards, the first step toward a nomination, Washel says.

While their previous work consisted of mostly rock and metal, the new tracks include a significant amount of brass with three new members joining the band—Ethan Connery on trumpet, trombone player Sam Sawyer, and Giovanni Washel, Gregory's son, on saxophone.

“All these young guys come out of the [Indiana University] Jacobs School of Music,” says Washel. “The talent they have is unbelievable.” Having his son in that mix makes this album especially meaningful. “I'm so proud of Giovanni,” Washel says. “It's an unbelievable thrill as a father to be on stage with your son.”

Though the band is multigenerational in its makeup—which can sometimes create a hierarchy—when it comes to making music, the group does it as a collective. “We are such a great team when it comes to songwriting,” Washel explains. “I'll come up with an idea and tell the guys about it and we will jam until it comes alive. That takes a lot of trust as a musician. But when it all clicks, it is such a rush.”

The band has an upcoming live show with tickets available at gregorysxit.com, performing at the Tivoli Theatre in Spencer, Indiana, on February 11.

“This has been our dream forever,” Washel says. “I don't know if I would say a hobby anymore because we're making money now. It's a great thing to experience.” —Aaron Brewington



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American Fast: Basketball Play About a Muslim Woman Star



Kareem Fahmy wrote *American Fast*. Courtesy photo

by Carmen Siering

Constellation Stage & Screen is bringing *American Fast*, a new play by Kareem Fahmy, to the Ted Jones Playhouse, 107 W. 9th St., March 23–April 8.

The 2022 winner of the Bloomington Playwrights Project Woodward/Newman Award, *American Fast* tells the fictional story of college basketball star Khady Salama, who dreams of leading her team to the NCAA Championship. But March Madness coincides with Ramadan, and Khady has promised her devout mother that she'll fast. When her story goes public, Khady becomes a role model for young Muslim women everywhere. There's just one problem—she lied about fasting.

Fahmy was born in Sherbrooke, Quebec, to Egyptian parents. He says the initial impulse for the play was his observation that while it's commonplace in American popular culture

to see stories about practicing Christians and Jews, there are fewer stories about Muslims.

"That's not necessarily surprising, but it's disappointing," he says. "Why can't it be normal to tell a story about a religion that is practiced by a billion people on the planet, including my family?"

And, he says, practice is the key word.

"If I'm going to talk about faith, how can I talk about the practical application of it?" he asks. "The first thing I thought about was fasting. People know about it and they're curious."

American Fast will be directed by Reena Dutt, a theater and film director and producer based in Los Angeles.

Dutt, whose parents immigrated to the United States from India, says she began writing and producing works for the BIPOC community early in her career when she realized there were not many stories being told through her own family's lens. Plays like *American Fast* help fill that gap.



Los Angeles-based Reena Dutt will direct the new play. Photo by Mike Larson

"I gravitate to stories that are not America Dream stories, but American diaspora stories," Dutt says. "The girl who is a basketball star who is Muslim. That's an interesting story to me."

Fahmy, who will attend opening night, says he knows little about Bloomington, but he knows it's a basketball town.

"And the thing that makes the play fun and exciting for audiences is it's structured like a basketball game," he says. "It's a fast-paced play that is, for the large part, a comedic drama. We're dealing with heavy themes, but the approach is playful. We're all rooting for this young Muslim woman."

For more information and tickets, visit seeconstellation.org. ✨

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These Boots Are Made for Walking (Or Hiking or Just Looking Good!)

Photography by Martin Boling

Give winter blahs the boot with the latest footwear styles stocked by local retailers.

One hot trend in women's boots is a western-inspired look, according to Stephanie Topoligus, owner-stylist at Alibi, 1535 S. Piazza Drive. "The cowboy vibe is timeless, but in its current iteration there's a boho look with decorative stitching and a sexy stacked heel that can be rocked with skirts, skinny pants, or dresses," she says.

Amber Fox, manager at Pitaya, 417 E. Kirkwood, agrees that the western look has been coming on strong since summer. She also says, "A variation on the Chelsea boot is very popular. It's easy to dress up with tights and a skirt, or take it casual with jeans." Fox also says that younger customers often opt for a pop of bright color in a more alternative style, such as an exaggerated platform, for fun one-off occasions.

Venture into the great outdoors and other trends are afoot. "In the hiking world, the move is toward lightweight footwear, not the heavy ▶



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1. Lawton by Magnanni is a smart, casual lace-up boot with a plain toe crafted in Spain from cognac suede leather. Andrew Davis Clothiers, 101 W. Kirkwood, Suite 119, \$450.
2. French Connection's faux leather Super Platform Bootie in pink chases winter blues away. Pitaya, 417 E. Kirkwood, \$42.
3. This 1980's-inspired Blondie Slouchy Suede Boot in black by Veronica Beard is classic silhouette with a retro twist. Alibi, 1535 S. Piazza Drive, \$550.
4. Magnanni's Montana II is an updated take on the classic hiking boot in supple calfskin leather featuring a cushioned rubber sole to provide all day comfort. Andrew Davis Clothiers, 101 W. Kirkwood, Suite 119, \$495.
5. Halle Hall sports the Sinaloa Metallic Cowboy Boot in red at Pitaya, 417 E. Kirkwood, \$62.
6. Nora Collins wears the Bethany boot by Eric Michael. Chelsea-boot inspired, it features pull-on style with elastic panels and fleece lining. Mirth, 101 W. Kirkwood, Suite 117, \$168.



6

brown boot a lot of people associate with hiking and backpacking,” says Mick Parker, footwear buyer at JL Waters, 109 N. College. “Nowadays, outdoor footwear transcends the trail and is so comfortable many people wear it as their everyday shoes.” —*Lee Ann Sandweiss*

7. Veronica Beard’s Ballan Tall Western Boot in taupe suede rocks a boho vibe and provides comfort with a cushioned footbed. Alibi, 1535 S. Piazza Drive, \$695.

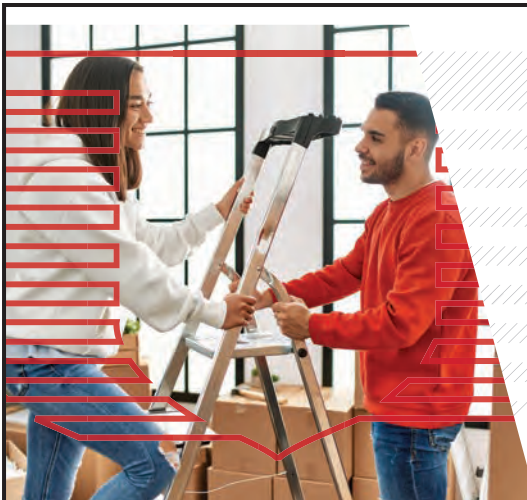
8. Salomon XUltra Pioneer Waterproof Lightweight Hiking/Backpacking Boot is tough enough for a rugged trail, but equally comfortable running errands; here, the men’s model. JL Waters, 109 N. College, \$149.95.



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Make Fragrant Candles At Kirkwood Candle Bar



The new Kirkwood Candle Bar is open inside EllieMae's Boutique on the south side of the downtown Square. Photos by Martin Boling

A new business called the Kirkwood Candle Bar—offering customers the opportunity to make their own unique candles—has recently opened inside EllieMae's Boutique on the south side of the downtown Square.

“We’ve been well received by the community,” says Terra Hall, store manager. “People are very excited to have a different experience in Bloomington.”

The candle-making experience takes from 30–45 minutes and starts at the two “scent walls” that house more than 60 fragrances for customers to choose. Two to

three scents are recommended for each candle, Hall explains, and each scent includes pairing suggestions to help guide customers toward interesting combinations.

“I have not yet smelled a candle blend that I do not enjoy,” Hall says. “Our candles burn clean. The fragrances are all essential oil-based, so there’s no unclean burning in your home.”

Customers also pick the size and color of the candle vessel they want with 12 from which to choose. Prices start at \$26 per candle.

Hall says that once a customer’s scents and vessel are chosen, a staff member will bring the selected oils to the customer’s table and explain the correct measurements to use, based on the size of the candle being made. Customers pour the oil into the vessel themselves, and once the wax has been prepared, they add it in and stir the oil and the wax mixture together.



(left) Emma Goss pours hot wax into a jar to make her own candle; (above) freshly made candles are lined up waiting to set.



She adds that no two candles are the same because each customer can put in as little—or as much—of any scent combination they want.

The candle then has to sit for at least 90 minutes to set. Customers can either go do other things while they wait or they can return the next day to pick up their finished candle. Kirkwood Candle Bar also ships and groups are welcome.

The candle bar idea came to fruition when EllieMae’s owner Marcy Cook wanted to learn more about the candle-making process in general, Hall says. Cook contacted Chad and Sabastian Garsnett, owners of Garsnett Beacon Candle Co. in Holland, Michigan, who came on board as consultants and were “a huge part” in launching the startup.

To learn more or make a reservation, visit elliemaes.boutique/kirkwood-candle-bar.

—Lily Marks

Mairzy Doats A New Toy Store

by Sophie Bird

Kat Pruce, owner of Mairzy Doats toy store at 919 S. College Mall Road, says her new shop is a “toy store with a little bit of play.” Bedecked in colorful pinks and oranges, painted windows, and murals by local artist Erin Tobey, Mairzy Doats is an interactive space that will soon host craft and game events for children of all ages.

“Part of what inspired me is that my son loved going to a toy store so much, not even asking for a toy but just wanting to go play,” says Pruce, who was a stay-at-home mom of two children, ages 5 and 7, before opening Mairzy Doats late last year. “It made me realize that kids really love to have these spaces.”

Named after a 1940s children’s song, Mairzy Doats opened online in mid-August before expanding to a brick-and-mortar store in December. Pruce, who opened the shop in part because of the lack of local toy options in Bloomington following the pandemic, says she hopes Mairzy Doats will provide opportunities for children to find toys they can play with for years to come.

“As a busy parent, most of the time you’re buying things last minute, so your options were Amazon or the big box stores,” she says.



(top) Kat Pruce says she opened Mairzy Doats toy store due to the lack of local toy options in Bloomington; (above) a selection of dolls available at the east-side store. Photos by Lisa Spencer



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At Mairzy Doats, she hopes to curate a collection that’s “different from what you get in the five aisles at Target.” Working with brands she trusts and sales groups that cater to independent toy stores, Pruce says she stocks options for every budget.

Current offerings include board games, puzzles, wooden figurines, fidget toys, plushes, play food, musical instruments, safe toys for infants, and bath and outdoor toys. Train sets, toy cars, and dolls have been particularly popular so far, Pruce says. She also sells STEM kits, craft supplies, and other options for older kids.

“I feel like I’ve got a pretty good run of the gamut,” Pruce says. “You can’t get this stuff anywhere else—not even Amazon a lot of times.”

As Mairzy Doats continues to put down roots in Bloomington, Pruce says she hopes the shop will become a hub for parents and children to explore.

Learn more and order online at shopmairzydoats.com. ✨

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Bartender Afua Dakwa

She's a People Person



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Bloomington High School South graduate Afua Dakwa describes herself as a “people person.” She began working as a server at SmokeWorks on the downtown Square in August 2021 and nine months later—just two days after her 21st birthday—picked up her first bartending shift. She says she couldn’t be happier.

Dakwa emphasizes the importance of balance in her mixology, making sure the drinks she creates are always “consistent, enjoyable, and worth the money.”

“I like making many different cocktails but look-wise my favorite is the New York Sour, which is a classic cocktail on our menu,” she explains. “It’s Four Roses [bourbon], simple syrup, and lemon juice, shaken up and poured on ice, then topped with a



Self-described “people person” Afua Dakwa prepares a New York Sour, her favorite cocktail to make, while tending bar at SmokeWorks on the downtown Square. Photo by Martin Boling

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cabernet float. It creates this nice separation, so the bottom is yellow with a thin, purple layer on top that’s really pretty.”

SmokeWorks, 121 N. College, is a Memphis-style barbecue joint and bar. It houses a variety of whiskey and moonshine options and features hundreds of bourbon brands from around the world, Dakwa explains. Its vast liquor display is organized by region, starting with Tennessee and Kentucky, and then global and Indiana brands.

Seldom-offered bourbons such as Willet, Booker’s, and Basil Hayden line the shelves and bring in regular customers, she adds.

“I’m the only townie that works here, and being a college town we get many different types of customers, like families and students who are coming to town for the first time and want to know what to do in Bloomington,” Dakwa says. “I’ve been here my whole life, so I’m able to provide a deeper explanation about the town.”

She says her favorite part of her job is getting to meet different people every day and hearing their background, their stories, and their life advice. “My mom always told me that everything happens for a reason, and I believe that every person I meet here was a conversation or advice I was meant to hear.”



Learn more at thesmokeworks.com. —Brittany Marshall



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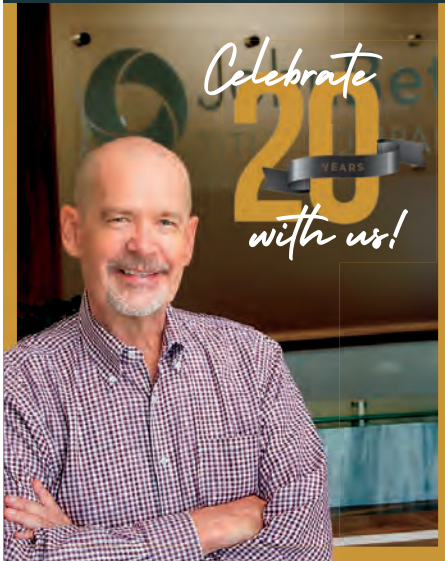
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bloomington & vine

BY JACK BAKER



Left-Handed Wines? Yes, They Do Exist!

We left-handers have a raw deal. We're 10% of the population and live in a right-handed world where most things work against us. In some societies left-handedness is considered a disability. We are on the wrong side of musical instruments and power tools. Writing makes us contort our hand so we don't smear the text. Ordinary scissors don't cut well for us and are painful to operate.

But we have some natural advantages. In boxing and tennis our few numbers give surprise to the right-handers. And in science and engineering we show superior ability to visualize the three-dimensional world. Don't worry, I'm working my rant around to wine.

Wines aren't normally "handed" one way or the other—but one is. In 2007, Sparky and Sarah Marquis began Mollydooker Wines in the McLaren Vale of Southern Australia. Mollydooker is Australian slang for a left-hander. Both Sparky and Sarah are left-handers and they have used their "disability" to celebrate the left-handed spirit. The first wine they produced, The Boxer, came out to kudos from wine reviewer Robert Parker (also a leftie). Since its inception the winery has continued to gather acclaim for its quality.

The two-fisted Boxer, a shiraz, inspired a whole left-handed wine series. It was followed by The Scooter merlot, its label showing a helmeted and goggled young Sparky running wild on his two-wheeled scooter. Two Left Feet, a blend of shiraz, merlot, and cabernet sauvignon, is showing us a tangled Sparky trying to dance. The Maitre D', a cabernet sauvignon, shows Sparky working his way through wine



The Violinist, a verdelo wine by Mollydooker Wines in Australia. Courtesy photo

school as a left-handed waiter. And The Violinist verdelo shows Sarah playing the violin right-handed so she doesn't poke her fellow violinist in the eye.

Make no mistake, for all of their levity, these are serious wines. At around \$30 they are

concentrated and full of flavor. Oak has been used with a light touch to mature the wines.

The alcohol levels are high at 15.5% but are balanced by flavor and acid, and do not drink "hot." Tannins are present but don't detract from drinking the wines young, though a few years in the cellar will smooth any roughness and add complexity to the flavor.

The next level of wines is also family themed. Gigglepot cabernet sauvignon is named for their daughter, Holly, seen laughing and wearing a pair of giant black sunglasses, and Blue-Eyed Boy shiraz is named for son, Luke, shown stomping grapes as a child. These inky wines at about \$60 have even more extraction than the "lefty" series.

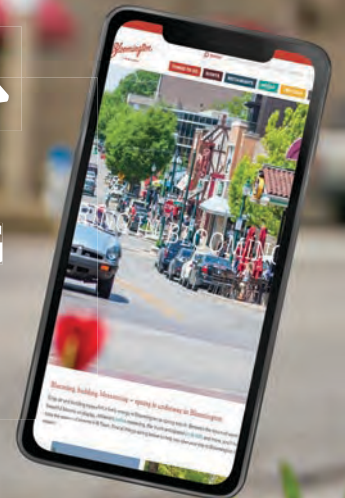
Left- or right-handed, Mollydooker punches above its weight. ✨

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TAPPED

Into Bloomington

BY GREG SIERING



It's All About the Yeast

With most of the beers I write about here, I focus on the malt flavors, and sometimes the characteristics of the hops. This time, however, it's all about the yeast, and I cannot think of a beer that showcases its yeast more than the German hefeweizen.

This wheat beer dates back to the early 1500s in Germany's Bavarian region. It was a bit of a rogue beer at the time, since its use of wheat actually violated the Reinheitsgebot, Germany's beer purity law that dictated beer only contain barley, hops, and water (they didn't know about yeast yet). Fortunately for us, some local nobles liked wheat beer and made an exception for weissbiers.

Hefeweizen is a straw-colored beer that has a hazy appearance and thick head, both of which come from the proteins in the wheat. That hazy appearance also comes from the yeast, since hefes are unfiltered and have a lot of yeast in suspension.

It's that yeast that gives a hefeweizen its unique character. This yeast does some magic during fermentation, producing esters that lead to banana and sometimes bubblegum character, and phenols reminiscent of cloves. A little too geeky for you? Well, take a sip of a hefeweizen, know there are no fruit or spices in there, and you can appreciate the wizardly partnership of yeast and brewer.

The bright flavors and slightly tart character of hefeweizen often make this a warm-season beer, but some German classics can be enjoyed all year. One of the best comes from the world's oldest brewery, Weihenstephaner. It pours a hazy golden-straw color, and its aroma is rich with banana and clove on top of a bready backbone. The beer's high carbonation and tartness are refreshing and balance its body and sweetness well. I like this beer because the banana doesn't overwhelm and makes more room for the clove spiciness, and it doesn't have the bubblegum flavor some hefes have.

If you're feeling experimental, you can also try its sister beer, Hefeweissbier Dunkel. It's more of a dirty straw color, with a more subtle aroma that adds a hint of roasty malt. The taste follows along, with the yeast-born flavors dropping a bit to make way for a gentle roasted malt. It's nowhere near a traditional malty dunkel, but while the original hefeweizen can be termed bright, this version is a bit more mellow.



Hefeweissbier and its sister beer, Hefeweissbier Dunkel, have a fruity and sweet flavor that is entirely yeast-based. Photo by Rodney Margison

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You can get Weihenstephaner at Bloomingfoods East, and you can find other German hefeweizens at World Foods Market and downtown at The Tap, which carries a few of these Bavarian treasures in bottles. If you want to look like a hefeweizen pro, pour most of the bottle, then swirl the remainder to get all that tasty yeast into your glass. And when the weather warms, look for local versions on tap, especially The Tap's David Hasselhefe, and Quaff On's Hoverweizen. Try several and explore the range of the style and to decide the flavor balance you like most.

So give hefeweizens a try, and raise a glass in honor of that hard-working yeast.

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Kimberly Roach & Karlee Wyatt

Sister Deans at Ivy Tech—Bloomington

by Janet Mandelstam

The medical careers of sisters Kimberly Roach and Karlee Wyatt have intersected at many points: “We just keep following each other around,” says Roach. But when Roach was named dean of nursing at Ivy Tech Community College—Bloomington last August, she and Wyatt became the only sibling deans on any of the statewide school’s campuses. “There are spouses who are deans, but no other siblings,” a spokesperson confirmed.

Wyatt, dean of health sciences since 2019, oversees seven Ivy Tech—Bloomington programs, including radiation therapy, respiratory therapy, and medical assisting.

As dean of nursing, Roach says, “We are working to increase our nursing programs, and we have a grant from Indiana University Health to support that growth.” The plan is to grow from 160 students currently to 190 next year, she says.

“But,” she notes, “it’s not just nurses; there is a health care professional shortage, and our two schools work closely together.”



(l-r) Kimberly Roach is dean of nursing at Ivy Tech Community College—Bloomington and her sister, Karlee Wyatt, is dean of health sciences. Photo by Kathryn Coers Rossman

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The sisters first worked together at the now-closed Indiana University Health Proton Therapy Center. Yet, growing up as the Fuller sisters in Odon, Indiana, neither imagined a career in medicine. “I had no idea what I wanted to do after high school,” says Wyatt, 41. “I got a job as a radiology technician, then as an X-ray technician, and I knew I wanted more. Radiation therapy was the path I was looking for.” She joined Ivy Tech—Bloomington 14 years ago in radiation therapy and then became clinical director and program director before being named dean.

“Most of our family were farmers and teachers,” says Roach, 45. “But we had one relative who became a doctor. We saw him graduate from medical school, and we watched his career. That inspired me to think about a medical career, too.”

After receiving a master’s degree in nursing from Ball State University, Roach worked for many years as an oncology nurse—“It was my only specialty”—and as an adjunct and consultant in Ivy Tech—Bloomington’s School of Nursing before becoming part of the faculty.

The sisters remain close outside of work, too. “Family and community are very important to us,” says Wyatt, “and we both seek a work-life balance. Every year we take a trip to Orange Beach, Alabama, with our families and our parents.” ✨

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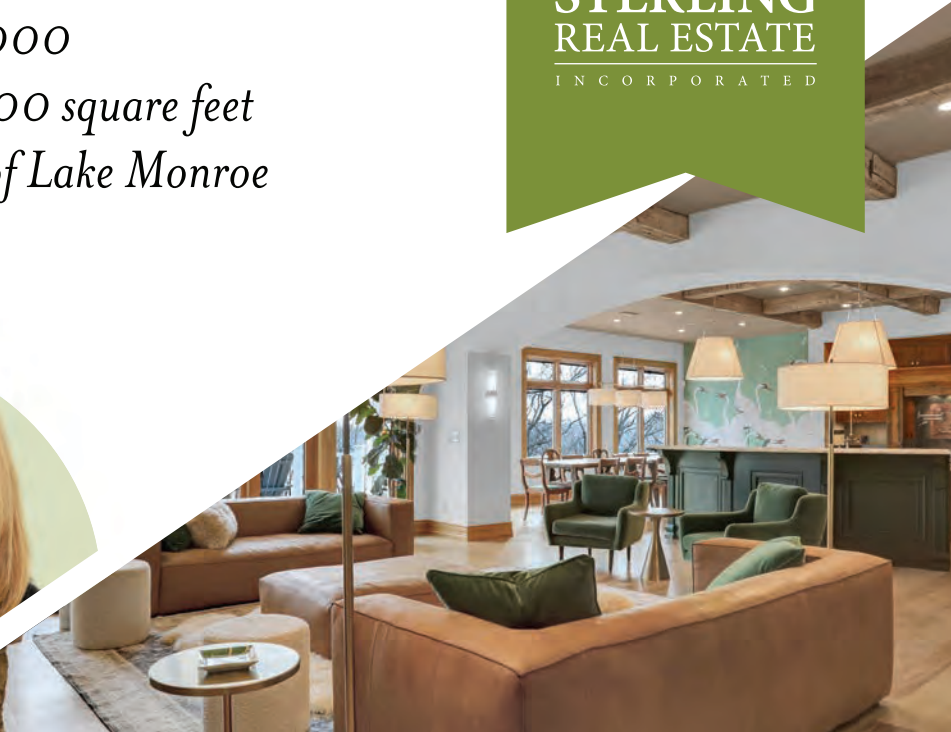
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‘Eddie the Elephant’s Magical Ear’ A Book for Kids With Hearing Loss



(above) *Eddie the Elephant’s Magical Ear*. Courtesy image (left) Author Suzanne Picerno is an audiologist with genetic hearing loss. Photo by Elizabeth Ellis

One would never suspect that Suzanne Picerno is completely deaf due to a genetic hearing loss.

Picerno, 59, has cochlear implants, but will tell you they aren’t a replacement for natural hearing. Her mission is to shed light on what she calls a “hidden disability” that has greatly hindered her social access. Last year, Picerno took an opportunity to educate younger families about the use of hearing protection.

Enter *Eddie the Elephant’s Magical Ear*—a children’s book that follows the journey of one elephant’s noise-induced hearing loss in an accessible and compassionate way. While Eddie’s natural hearing doesn’t return, he does get a magical blue hearing aid from his spider friend to compensate.

“Overexposure to loud noise can cause permanent damage to one’s hearing. Once it’s gone, it’s gone forever,” says Picerno. “Noise-induced hearing loss constitutes 85% of all hearing loss.”

Picerno says she hopes Eddie can be a tool to kickstart important conversations between teachers, children, and their families. Additionally, it is important to reduce stigmas around hearing aids, while filling an educational gap surrounding hearing loss.

“It’s been a long journey over the last 30-plus years, but I’ve finally embraced my disability,” says Picerno. “I’m a huge advocate for hearing awareness. It’s a lonely and painful journey without knowledge, skill sets, and self-advocacy.”

Picerno recalls repeatedly being pulled out of grade school for hearing tests. “My hearing issues were not addressed until college while studying speech pathology and audiology,” says Picerno. “That’s where I learned I had a hearing loss. I thought, I can’t do this professionally. I won’t be able to hear!”

Picerno says she was successful in the corporate world, but admits that as her hearing continued to decline, it became increasingly difficult to compete in the workplace. In 2019, she founded At Home Hearing Services LLC, where she conducts hearing tests and provides education for clients in the comfort of their own homes.

Eddie the Elephant’s Magical Ear is available on Amazon. For more information, contact Picerno at athomehearingservices@gmail.com. —Elizabeth Ellis

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St. Marks Nursery & Kindergarten School

Where Children's Curiosity Guides Activity

St. Mark's Nursery School and Kindergarten is a nonprofit early childhood center that began in 1969 with a play-based, experiential learning environment. Though supported by the Bloomington St. Marks United Methodist Church, the school is an inclusive educational institution that does not teach religious doctrine.

"Our school's philosophy is to prioritize empathy, empowerment, assumptions of positive intent, conflict resolution, experiential play, song and story, risk taking, and parent involvement," says Kate Morris, director and teacher at St. Mark's. "What truly sets us apart from other programs is how we approach children. Rather than employing 'power over' strategies to shift behavior or support conflict, we use 'power with' strategies and embrace behavior, conflict, and big emotions."

Located at 100 N. Ind. 46 in Bloomington, the school offers half-day programming for infants through kindergarten, with a mix of indoor and outdoor play, she says. Instead of a top-down approach to learning, a child's curiosity guides classroom activities.

"We believe that adults often become preoccupied with a child's academic goals and forget about the foundation of learning that facilitates their social and emotional growth," says Morris. "We do have a literary-rich environment, and our teachers focus on curating spaces where our children can explore their own interests naturally."

Morris says another component of the school's mission is to build a family community. Families are empowered to play an active role, including regular in-class participation, community-wide events, and an active parent



(top) Kate Morris is the director of and a teacher for St. Mark's Nursery School and Kindergarten. By prioritizing open-ended play, including sensory experiences, children often lead and curate their own experiences; each child's developmental stage and unique style is valued and accepted. Play provides a context for conflict resolution, teamwork, and emotional development; inclusivity is key, and caregivers and children are asked to come as they are without fear of judgment. The child-centered program emphasizes wonder and immersive, messy play in a safe environment. Photos by Kathryn Coers Rossman



committee. Currently they offer free parent support and education classes—a new initiative highlighting themes of “connecting” through humor, play, big emotions, and more.

These classes were inspired by their new administrative model, where leadership splits their administrative duties with teaching to gain additional perspective of classroom happenings, says Morris. “It really feels like this year is the beginning of a lot of things for our school.”

For 40 years, St. Mark’s has hosted annual community events focused on creation and play, Morris explains. Their upcoming event, Loose Parts Play Palooza, is scheduled for March 3, 2023. “The goal is to give back to the community with what we feel like is invaluable experience for young children and their families to discover together.”

Learn more at stmarksbloomingtonnurseryschool.org.
—Brittany Marshall

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Citizen Scientist

BY SUSAN M. BRACKNEY



Gardeners, Hikers, Backyard Barbecuers Can Help Track Climate Change Effects

Soon it will be that time. You know, when the dogwood leaves are as big as a mouse's ear? That means it will be time to hit the secret morel patch. Time for wildflower forays. Time to poke around in the garden or bust out the grill. And it will also be the perfect time to start submitting observations about the insects, plants, and animals you notice along the way.

Particularly now, researchers need consistent, widespread sources of phenological data—observations about the seasonal influences on various species' lifecycle events. (Think flowering times for mayapples, nesting activities for ruby-throated hummingbirds, and so on.)

Statewide Stats

By detailing when we see certain species in our own backyards—and what those species are up to—we can help researchers to identify larger shifts in their habits and habitat. “One big reason we’re collecting this data is so that we can see the effects of climate change in Indiana,” says Amanda Wanlass, executive director of Indiana Phenology, a nonprofit group helping Hoosiers collect and report cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena.

“The data we collect goes to a national database,” she says. “There are dozens and dozens of articles that are published using that data.”

According to a National Phenology Network report highlighting findings based on Midwestern phenological observations, early bloomers like crocus and snowdrops are flowering even earlier. “This is consistent with a number of recent studies, suggesting that late winter–early spring warming is a particularly important cue for typically early flowering species,” the authors note.

There are more than 600 Indiana-specific plants and animals for which Indiana Phenology wishes to collect observations. The



A spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*) blooms in Winslow Park Woods. Photo by Susan M. Brackney

group offers online phenology training sessions, as well as phenophase identification guides for select species.

Not sure where to begin? “In April, redbuds are a good [species to observe],” Wanlass suggests. “And all of those spring ephemerals are good. People who are just interested in whatever catches their eye at a given time of year, that’s something they can start with.”

Whatever you choose to observe, you’ll first need to join Nature’s Notebook online (usanpn.org/user/register) in order to submit your data. Select “Indiana Backyard Observers” under the “Partner Groups” section when registering. Next, select and register the site from which you’ll make periodic observations and the species you plan to observe.

After some brief training, you’ll be well-equipped to provide data. You can enter it directly into Nature’s Notebook in real-time or record your observations on paper for later submission.

“Collecting phenology observations is something for preschoolers all the way through retirement [age],” Wanlass notes. “It’s a very approachable, fun way of engaging with nature and learning more about those cycles and rhythms that are happening around us all the time.” ✨

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IU's Julie Payne-Kirchmeier First VP for Student Success



Julie Payne-Kirchmeier, the first vice president for student success at Indiana University, says part of her job is to look at students holistically and learn how they can thrive academically, interpersonally, and intra-personally. Photo by Martin Boling

by Janet Mandelstam

Following a national search, Julie Payne-Kirchmeier was selected as Indiana University's vice president for student success, a newly created position. She came to IU from Northwestern University, where she was vice president for student affairs. What's different about a VP for student success, she says, "is that it looks at students holistically. How can they thrive academically, interpersonally in their relationships with others, and intra-personally—that is, how they feel about themselves?"

In announcing the new position IU President Pamela Whitten said, "Students are the center of the universe at IU, and that is why we designed a senior leadership role focused on the issues of importance to them." Payne-Kirchmeier, 51, arrived at the university in August. During her first few months on the job she has been meeting with students across all campuses and cites four issues of importance to them.

"The first is mental health concerns," she says. "How can we be sure that we are

getting services where they are needed. The university is currently exploring a telehealth system, and I was asked to be part of that process, representing the students, making sure we are asking the right questions about access and resources."

The second issue, she says, is "helping first generation students navigate the university." The third is "helping low-income students meet their basic needs so they can focus on their studies. Some students are working 40 hours a week; there are questions of food insecurity and even homelessness." Lastly, there is the issue of academic support, "for which there are many programs in place."

Though she was born in Texas and received her undergraduate and master's degrees at Texas A&M, Payne-Kirchmeier has deep roots in Indiana. Her great-

grandparents moved to the state and her mother, grandmother, and grandfather were all born in Indianapolis. And prior to her stint at Northwestern, she held a student-focused position at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville and received her doctorate in educational leadership from Indiana State University in Terra Haute.

She and her husband, Tony Kirchmeier, live in Indianapolis where, she says, "I am closer to all of the IU campuses."

As she settles into her new role, Payne-Kirchmeier says, "I believe we have the opportunity to truly come together around the idea of student success so that our students can figure out what they want to be, graduate, and then give back to our university and our state and go out and change the world." ✨

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Bloomington Meals on Wheels Celebrates 50 Years of Service

by Elizabeth Ellis

On February 19, 1974, the first Bloomington Meals on Wheels hot lunch was delivered to a grateful client's home.

Now, 50 years after its formal Bloomington establishment in 1973, Meals on Wheels (MOW) serves—on average—108 people five days a week within Bloomington's city limits, says Executive Director Carrie McHaley.

Longtime MOW partner IU Health Bloomington Hospital prepares 78% of the program's meals, with the rest provided by Meadowood Senior Living Community. Each client receives two meals daily—one hot and one cold—delivered fresh from the private vehicles of 300 volunteers.

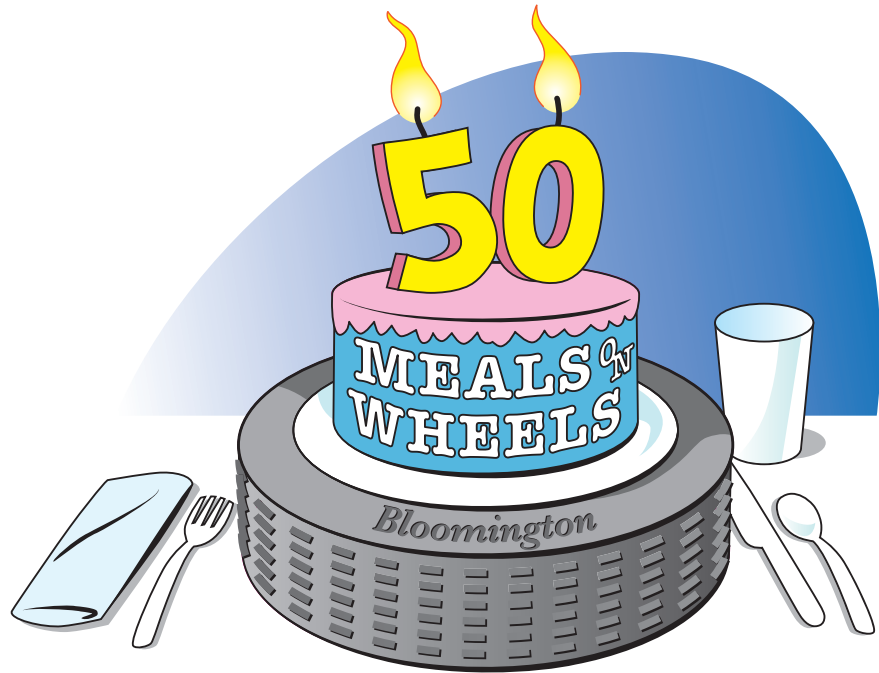


Illustration by Mike Cagle

In the early 1970s, the Local Council of Women researched the feasibility of a Meals on Wheels program here. The members included Becky Hrisomalos, who became the first chairwoman of the organization in 1973 and is still an active member.

"They saw the need for people to have assistance after they came home from the hospital from an illness or operation," says Kathy Romy, board chair and former executive director. "Becky was a social worker at the hospital, so she really brought great insight into the need."

And those wheels keep on turning—in 2010, the organization had six routes, with Romy adding a seventh during her tenure. McCray, who took over as director in September 2019, says that the eighth route came about suddenly: "COVID hit, and during that month of March [2020], we had a 400% increase in requests from people who were fully qualified for MOW. Meadowood was not prepared to take on

additional meals, and the hospital was under a huge crunch."

Thanks to a three-month emergency grant from United Way, Meals on Wheels enlisted the services of Community Kitchen of Monroe County to fill the expanded demand. At the end of the grant, the hospital stepped in again to provide for the extra route. There are now nine routes, with an estimated 2,700 volunteer miles driven per month.

"We never missed a day," says McHaley. "Bloomington is just absolutely amazing—whenever we need something, the community just steps up."

Celebration plans for the 50th anniversary include a luncheon for volunteers in August at the Monroe Convention Center, as well as plans for a Classic Car Club MOW meal delivery in early spring.

Call 812-355-8224 or find @bloomingtonMOW on Facebook to learn more. ✨



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Juniper Art Gallery in Spencer Moving to Downtown B-town



Jaime Sweany, owner of Juniper Art Gallery, closed the Spencer, Indiana, space and will reopen soon at 615 W. Kirkwood in Bloomington. Photo by Rodney Margison

by Carmen Siering

After four years in Spencer, Indiana, Juniper Art Gallery is moving to 615 W. Kirkwood in Bloomington. Owner Jaime Sweany says the goal is to open by late February.

"I opened in Spencer because I found an affordable arts space and I wanted to bring arts and cultural events to a growing rural community," Sweany says. "Unfortunately, the pandemic changed the trajectory of what was happening there, and things that were in development didn't continue. I'm sure they will develop, but I wanted to come home."

From 2003 to 2011, Sweany ran the well-known Wandering Turtle Art Gallery in downtown Bloomington.

Juniper Art Gallery will be located in the former Bloomingtonea space, and will have a retail shop and an art exhibition space, similar to the gallery in Spencer.

"The artisan shop represents more than 130 local, regional, and national artists, as well as small, handmade companies," Sweany says. "We have national and international fair-trade goods, and items with an emphasis on Día de los Muertos [Day of the Dead] merchandise, as well as clothing that supports women's cooperatives in the Himalayas and South America."

Art will be exhibited in the Main Gallery—dedicated to Sweany's parents, Paul & Margaret Sweany—and in the Special Exhibits Room.

"In the Main Gallery, I offer fine art by exceptional, award-winning artists. Those shows change out in the spring and fall," Sweany says of the space that features mostly Indiana artists. "The special exhibits change every six to eight weeks."

Receptions will be held during Gallery Walk events, says Sweany, who helped establish Gallery Walk Bloomington in 2003.

The new location will feature a small stage for performances by local musicians, and a café featuring hot drinks and baked goods.

Sweany has been aided in her move by Danielle Urschel, a Bloomington visual artist represented at Juniper Art Gallery, who created a Go Fund Me campaign to help with the relocation. To donate, visit gofund.me/287e69ef.

For more information, visit juniperartgallery.com. *

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How an Injured IU Football Player Gave Back to B-town Community



Indiana University senior linebacker Cam Jones celebrates after making a tackle in the Hoosiers' 2022 season opener against Illinois. Photo by Rodney Margison

by Rodney Margison

When Indiana University senior linebacker Cam Jones injured his foot in the Hoosiers' football game at Nebraska last October, it ended his playing season. But it gave him a lot of free time to brainstorm ideas about how he could make an impact off the field, he says.

"The path that I take home every day, I drive past a large group of unfortunate people," the 23-year-old Memphis, Tennessee, native explains. "People that don't have the same opportunities and resources that I have. I was very bothered.

"I was blessed enough to have everything I needed growing up," he continues. "As humans, we become selfish, only focusing on the things that we don't have rather than the things that we do have. I want to give back to those in need."

That led Jones to organize the Cam Jones Community Coat Drive, held November 23, 2022, outside IU's Memorial Stadium. "I had exactly a week to make this coat drive as successful as possible," he says. "I posted the graphic on my social media platforms and sent the graphic to my coaches, family, friends, and teammates. Hoosier Nation was very supportive in making the coat drive known worldwide, literally!"

Jones collected 500 coats to give back to the community. "There was a mix of kid's and adult's coats," he says. "Two hundred of them were brand new with tags still on them! The rest were used but all in great condition."

All 500 coats were distributed through partnerships Jones made with several local organizations, including Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County, Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington, Shalom Community Center, and area elementary schools.

Jones graduated IU last fall with a degree in liberal studies and is now looking forward to playing at the next level. "Competing in the NFL has always been a dream of mine," he says. "Now that I'm finished with my Hoosier career, I'm able to pursue that dream, hoping to hear my name called in the 2023 NFL draft."

But he isn't finished with being a Hoosier, Jones says. "With the platform I have, I will continue to give back to those organizations in Bloomington. They will forever have a special place in my heart." *



The graphic that was shared on social media that helped Jones collect more than 500 coats that he donated to those in need. Courtesy image



(l-r) IU teammates Aaron Casey and Cam Jones at the Bloom Holiday Party in December. Photo by Lisa Spencer

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Dave Askins at City Hall

BY DAVE ASKINS



Could a Republican Candidate Win a Seat on City Council?

by Dave Askins | B Square Bulletin

Bloom's deadline for this column was January 4.

January 4 was also the first day it was possible to declare an official candidacy for Bloomington mayor, clerk, and councilmember.

So I spent that Wednesday making final revisions to this piece, camped out at Monroe County's Election Central. That's the old Johnson's Hardware building at West 7th and North Madison streets.

On that day, eight different Bloomington candidates filed their CAN-42 form.

It's a pretty short window to file the form—just 30 days. And early voting starts on April 4, just 60 days after the February 3 filing deadline. Primary Election Day is May 2.

Of course, in a town like Bloomington, which leans hard for Democrats, the primary will almost surely decide the winners in November.

In fact, for Bloomington's most recent election cycle, the county election board decided that no general election would be held at all—except in the two city council districts where there was an actual contest.

It's a fair assumption that the Democratic Party will field a candidate for every office in this year's general election.

But will there be any contested city races this November?

The easy bet is no. Still, for any of the 11 city offices, there are three logically possible ways for a race to be competitive in the general election.

A Republican could declare a candidacy. An independent could collect enough petition signatures to appear on the ballot—the number depends on the number of

ballots cast in the secretary of state's race in 2022. Or someone could register as a write-in.

Those ways might seem merely theoretical. But here's why they could produce a winning candidate, especially for one of the city council districts.

A city council district that could be winnable for a non-Democrat in November is the newly drawn District 6, which covers a central area of the city where students predominate.

So District 6 turnout in fall 2023 will probably be low, maybe dramatically low. In the 2022 general election for secretary of state, just 477 District 6 voters cast a ballot.

GOP county chair Taylor Bryant is an IU student. That means Republicans might have a decent campus ground game. Boosting turnout just a little, in a targeted way, could put a student Republican on the city council.

The very poor turnout in District 6 for the 2022 elections also means the bar is low for the number of signatures required to appear on the ballot as an independent. In 2023, just 10 petition signatures would put a District 6 independent on the ballot. The deadline is June 30.

It's a higher petition bar for a citywide at-large city council seat—352 signatures. But that's about 170 less than in 2019.

In an at-large council race, a Republican or an independent would stand a better chance than in other races—because under state law, straight-ticket votes don't apply in the pick-up-to-three-candidates type of races.

By the time this column appears, the primary election fields will be set. Good luck to all the primary candidates! ✨



Hilltop Garden & Nature Center

For 75 Years a Place to Learn

An Indiana University biology professor's idea 75 years ago to give youth a taste of gardening is still flourishing today. The Hilltop Garden & Nature Center, IU's five-acre oasis at 2367 E. 10th St., welcomes all to tour demonstration gardens; find ideas for their own gardens; volunteer to tend plants, herbs, flowers, and vegetables; and learn about beekeeping. There is no admission fee and scheduled guided tours are available.

While the late professor Barbara Shalucha focused on youth gardening, Hilltop's reach has expanded throughout IU and the community with events, programs, and classes, says Hilltop Manager Kylie Scherer. Students learn through internships and work study programs, adults take gardening classes, and painting club members even paint there. In 2022, she says, about 1,800 mini-garden kits with vegetable seeds, soil, and containers were distributed to pupils in five counties.

Beginning in March, Scherer says, the first wave of color will be a couple hundred daffodils, irises, and day lilies blooming in Libby's Border, named after the late Libby Frey, a Bloomington resident and long-time Hilltop volunteer.

For those who haven't visited Hilltop, Scherer says, "The 75th anniversary is a way to introduce them to Hilltop—to come, enjoy,

and wander." Anniversary events will be publicized on Hilltop's website, hilltop.indiana.edu, and its Facebook and Instagram pages.

Libby's Border is one of 12 themed gardens, along with an urban garden, pollinator garden, tea garden, native tall grass prairie, and herb garden. Hilltop also has three youth programming gardens and three "academic" gardens used by IU professors and staff for teaching, research, and art.

For Scherer, overseeing Hilltop is a dream job she's had since 2019.

"I have always been passionate about plants and nature and the outdoors," says Scherer, who has an IU environmental management degree and a Purdue University master's degree in youth development and agriculture education. "It's a way to share that passion with others." —*Barb Bergoetz*



March daffodils bloom in Libby's Border, one of more than 15 gardens at Hilltop Garden & Nature Center. Libby's Border was named after the late Libby Frey, a Bloomington resident and long-time Hilltop volunteer. *Courtesy photo*

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WFIU-FM and Moya Andrews to Celebrate 1,000 Episodes of 'Focus on Flowers'

Moya Andrews says things have always sprung into bloom for her—flowers beneath her fingertips, opportunities to grow where she has been transplanted, and collaborations with working partners in Bloomington, the town she calls “so aptly named.”

Professor emeritus of speech and hearing sciences at Indiana University, Andrews, 83, says she started cultivating flowers as something to do in her retirement. Now a master gardener, she hosts the public radio show *Focus on Flowers*, whose 1,000th episode will air on WFIU-FM on March 30.

Andrews was born and grew up in Brisbane, Australia, where the consistently warm climate was conducive for the gardening that both her parents had practiced. “My mother always sent me to elementary school with bouquets of flowers for my teachers,” she says.

Andrews herself started gardening in 1971 when she moved to Bloomington and became a homeowner. She began by walking around her Elm Heights neighborhood to see and learn which flowering plants grew best in an unfamiliar-to-her climate known for its seasonally

extreme heat and cold. “So, I learned, as many of us do, through trial and error,” she says.

As the center of unpredictable growth and challenges, her garden evolved into “a metaphor for life and work,” Andrews says. The hard lessons she learned in her own garden yielded material for her *Focus on Flowers* scripts and her co-authored books, *Shrubs Large and Small* (IU Press, 2013) and *Perennials Short and Tall* (IU Press, 2008).

Some of those hard lessons involved compromise, Andrews explains. For example, she says she found it easier to grow “easy-going” zinnias and marigolds in Bloomington, instead of “romantic blooms” like lilies and roses. “Some of the showiest flowers are short-lived and finicky, like divas, and some of the less showy blooms last longer and come back year after year like reliable friends you can count on,” she says.

Andrews plans to air and record episodes of *Focus on Flowers* until 2024. By then, she will have performed this “labor of love” for 20 years.

Learn more at indianapublicmedia.org/focusonflowers. —Hiromi Yoshida



Moya Andrews will soon host her 1,000th episode of *Focus on Flowers* on WFIU-FM. Courtesy photo

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Sports

The Story Behind the Story



(l-r) Former Indiana University women's basketball players Sue Logsdon, Vella Jo Price, and Evelyn Butler were on the Hoosiers' 1973 team that made it to the Final Four.
Photo by Martin Boling

One of the reasons we love sports is that they are the ultimate reality show. There's no script to follow as one side wins and one side loses. For every success, there is also failure. And vice versa. Sometimes the details are lost to history, and the ensuing monikers only tell one part of the story, as the following example from sports in the state of Indiana show.

The Highs and Lows of IU Women's Basketball

Mention Hoosier Hysteria and odds are good that tales of high school exploits or memories of the IU Hoosiers' glory days spring to mind.

The Indiana University women's basketball program, long labeled as moribund, does not immediately appear to fit the bill. After all, the female Hoosiers failed to play in any sort of postseason in 33 of their 51 seasons. However, the Hoosiers have their own place in history, one bookended by a surprisingly strong start and a current sustained success.

The first varsity team at IU, under the direction of coach Bea Gorton, went 12-2 and made the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) quarterfinals.

The AIAW, which carried the banner for women's athletics until the NCAA approved women's championships for the 1981-82 season, saw the Hoosiers build on that initial success. Gorton, who made a habit of drawing on men's coach Bob Knight, led a team that included future Stanford Hall of Fame coach Tara Vanderveer and IU's first

All-American, Debbie Oing, to the AIAW Final Four in 1973. There the Hoosiers fell in the semifinals before rallying to win the third-place game in what remains their best season to date. They returned to the AIAW Elite Eight in 1974 before the first of several droughts.

Nine years later, history was made again in 1982-83 as first team All-Big Ten forward Denise Jackson led Indiana to its only Big Ten regular season title, first NCAA Tournament appearance, and first NCAA Tournament win before falling in the second round.

It would be another 11 years before the Hoosiers returned to the Big Dance in 1994, with a return trip in 1995.

Lightning struck seven years later as Indiana made an unexpected run to the 2002 Big Ten Tournament title. With head coach Kathi Bennett in a head and neck brace after a car accident, point guard Heather Cassady and center Jill Chapman sparked the Hoosiers.

The flame didn't stay lit. It would be 14 years before Indiana made its way to the NCAA Tournament again under current coach Teri Moren, winning a tournament game for the first time since 1983.

A WNIT championship in 2018 stoked the fires, and Indiana has been a fixture in the NCAA field ever since. Only the pandemic-canceled 2020 postseason broke the string, but the Hoosiers reached the Elite Eight in 2021 and the Sweet Sixteen in 2022. They are now 8-8 all-time in NCAA Tournament play with seven of those wins coming in the last four appearances. As a perennial top-25 team, Indiana is slowly changing a perception that was flawed in the first place. ✦

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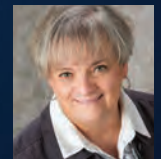
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Gold Casters Fine Jewelry Celebrates The Big 4-0!

by Sophie Bird

As Gold Casters celebrates its 40th anniversary, founder J. Brad Lawrence is reflecting on how Bloomington's largest independent jewelry store got started: with a \$5,000 loan, two rented jewelry cases, and a single room just off his mother's beauty parlor.

"Never in my wildest dreams would I have ever thought the store would end up as big as it is," says Lawrence, who opened Gold Casters Fine Jewelry in 1984. "That was never my goal. My goal was to bring a world-class jewelry and diamond store to Bloomington."

Lawrence's fascination with jewelry began in childhood, starting with the time he spent at a local coin shop and at the Monroe County Public Library, poring over books about gemology and the history of jewelry. Later, as a business student studying accounting at Indiana University, Lawrence sold gold chains and other jewelry out of a briefcase.

"I really loved the jewelry aspect of that work, so instead of being an accountant, I decided to go to the Gemological Institute of America," Lawrence says. He left IU, traveled to California, and



Forty years ago, Brad Lawrence started Gold Casters Fine Jewelry with a \$5,000 loan, two rented jewelry cases, and a single room off his mother's beauty shop.

Photo by Rodney Margison

earned his degree in jewelry manufacturing arts and gemology. "I came back to Bloomington from California and started a jewelry store, which I knew nothing about."

Custom jewelry was the focus of Gold Casters in those early days, but Lawrence's fledgling business quickly expanded to offer other services, moving to its current location at the corner of East 2nd and South Washington streets in 1986. Today, Lawrence and his team of 18 employees offer jewelry sales, resizing and repairs, custom designs, engraving, and appraisals.

Gold Casters draws customers from all over south-central Indiana, and Lawrence credits customer service for the store's success.

"We really take a personal approach with all of our customers," he says. "They turn into your friends and some of them are almost like family. A lot of them I've made jewelry for their grandparents, their parents, and now themselves."

Of the anniversary, Lawrence says, "Forty years is a big one. We'll do some special things throughout the year, with one large event to cap everything off. Everyone will hear about it. We'll make sure of that!"

Learn more at goldcasters.com. ✧



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Robot To Build Walls of New House



The new house on Cottage Grove is a joint project of Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County and Terran Robotics. Zach Dwiel, a Bloomington native and CEO of Terran, formed the company in 2019.

Dwiel says that building exterior walls of houses totally by machine should significantly reduce construction costs. How much?

“Way down,” he says, adding that typically, house construction costs are 50-50 labor-materials. The Terraformer will reduce the labor proportion of building an exterior wall, for example, to about 10%.

The owner of the future house on Cottage Grove is Whitney Humphrey, an academic advisor in the Indiana University College of Arts and Sciences. Humphrey says she saw lots of substantial homes built of the same clay-pebble-straw mixture when she visited Ghana on an IU student trip a decade ago.

“And I thought—‘Oh, my gosh, I wish I could have a house like that!’” she recalls. And it looks like she probably will. —Norm Crampton

(far left, l-r) Terran Robotics CEO Zach Dwiel and chief design officer Daniel Weddle with the Terraformer robot in the industrial bay where material prototypes are produced; (left) Weddle holds a raw mixture of clay, pebbles, and straw that becomes the “cob” bricks used to build eco-friendly walls. Photos by Paul Baechtold

One day this spring, construction is expected to begin on a two-bedroom house in Bloomington that the builders say will make home-building history.

Currently, at the future site on West Cottage Grove Avenue, a steel tower sits on each corner of the smallish lot, each tower attached by cable to a large metal box in the center of the site, hanging a few feet above ground.

The box is a robot called a “Terraformer.” It builds the outside wall of the house by placing together pliable “cobs” of material measuring about a foot square that have been produced on site.

Demonstrating what a cob is made of, Daniel Weddle, chief design officer of Terran Robotics, the Bloomington-based contractor, rolls up his sleeves, reaches into a bucket of moist clay, and grabs a handful. From another bucket he grabs pebbles, and from a third bucket, straw, plopping all three ingredients together and giving them a massage-mix, forming what also could be called an adobe brick.

In production mode, the Terraformer transports cobs exactly into place on the outside wall, smooths each one, checks alignment, and goes to grab and place another, all without human intervention. The finished wall will look like stucco, Weddle says.

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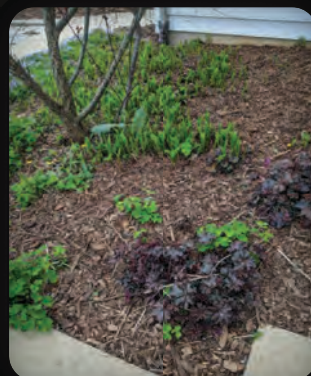
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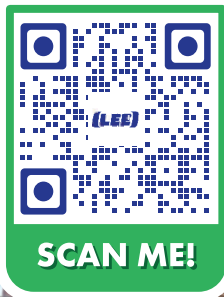


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Newlyweds Rhea Bagaria and Stephen Conklin pause for a photo after their wedding ceremony at FAR Center for Contemporary Arts.



'That's MY HUSBAND'

RHEA +
STEPHEN

Love at First Sight

By Linda Margison

Photography by Wandering Heart Photography

Stephen Conklin and Rhea Bagaria had each relocated to Bloomington—Stephen for a job at Cook Medical and Rhea for law school—and were looking to meet people in the community through a dating app. Neither was looking for a relationship—just friendship.

(left) Stephen wipes a tear while reading his vow to Rhea; (below, left) the couple share a touching moment together; (below) Stephen jumps with joy to the surprise of his new bride.





Stephen and Rhea found one another in October 2019 and Rhea suggested they get together at The Orbit Room. She was a half hour late. “I’m Indian, it’s what we do,” she says with a soft chuckle. “I walk in 30 minutes late and I’m thinking that’s on time, but it wasn’t on time for Stephen, who likes to get places 10 minutes early.”

While waiting, Stephen had been talking with the bartender and stood to greet her. “He got up and I was shook, because he was 6-foot-4 ... I was like, ‘That’s my husband!’ And here we are,” she jokes.

They had a few drinks and then Stephen drove her home before heading across town to his place, only to get Facebook calls from Rhea saying she left her phone in his car—so he drove back across town to deliver the phone. After that night, they communicated often via text and Snapchat. “He was so funny, and he was the sweetest—so patient,” Rhea says.

Through October and November, they went on several dates—including to Oliver Winery and The Comedy Attic—and then Rhea went home to India to visit her parents, Anish and Falguni Bagaria, for a month. Despite the time difference, they were able to stay in touch.

(top) Their Bloomington wedding was intimate with only close friends and family—a second wedding, held later in India, lasted four days with more than 200 in attendance; (right, top) Stephen and his parents, Joel and Randi Conklin; (right) Rhea’s parents, Anish and Falguni Bagaria, escort her down the aisle; (far right) after the ceremony, Rhea and Stephen stopped by The Orbit Room, the site of their first date.





“We had a lot of conversations about our relationship,” Stephen says, adding that they lived together for a year before he proposed. “For her it was a much scarier decision, because if she wanted to stay in a relationship, that meant staying in America and not being around her family all the time.”

Around the same time, Rhea graduated from law school and applied for a work visa—a lottery system—to stay in the United States. Rhea wasn’t chosen, but that didn’t matter, because they had already decided to spend their lives together.

Rhea’s parents visited and spent three weeks helping plan the couple’s wedding at FAR Center for Contemporary Arts. Rhea’s father is in the jewelry business in India, so he made the engagement and wedding rings. Her parents also brought a traditional Indian sari, which she wore for the patio ceremony. Only close family attended the ceremony, including Stephen’s parents, Joel and Randi Conklin. Stephen’s brother, Matthew Conklin, officiated, and Stephen and Rhea exchanged vows they wrote themselves.

For the reception, catered by First Class Catering, Rhea changed into a second dress purchased from David’s Bridal. Stephen’s suit was from Men’s Wearhouse. Sarah Wilson of Wandering Hearts Photography and videographer Brittany Buechler documented the special day.

Instead of a honeymoon, the couple had a second wedding in India, lasting four days and with more than 200 people attending. ✨



(top) Rhea and Stephen celebrate after Matthew Conklin, Stephen's brother, pronounced them married; (above) everyone hit the dance floor after the ceremony; (below) a moment alone as the evening winds down..



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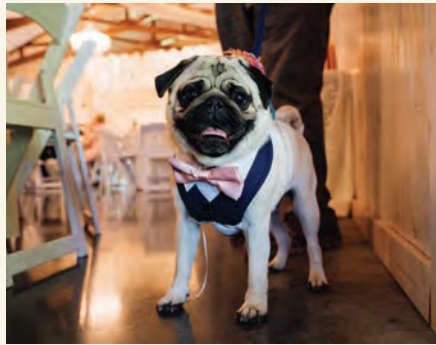
By Linda Margison
Photography by Seth Teeters Photography

CHRISTY + HUNTER

Before meeting each other in 2018 on the dating website OkCupid, Orlando, Florida, residents Christy Thompson and Hunter Robson had similar views on marriage—they believed husbands and wives should be best friends.

Christy and Hunter planned their first date to Disney Springs at Walt Disney World Resort, but traffic was bad so they drove to Universal Studios Florida instead. “You get to know someone while you’re sitting in traffic for an hour,” Christy says.

With shared interests in Disney, theme parks, and Nintendo’s Mario games, Hunter and Christy became “official” by December 7, 2018. “Once we started hanging out, we basically became best





(opposite page, clockwise from top, right) Christy and flower girl Alice Kelwaski before the ceremony; the newlyweds walk beneath party lights after the nighttime ceremony; Christy and Hunter's first dance; their pug dog, Kronk, was the ring bearer.

(this page, above) Hunter and Christy pose for a photo, illuminated by Chinese lanterns held by their guests; (right, top) the bride and groom and their extended families; (right, bottom) being a "backward" wedding meant the formal portraits were all made beforehand.



friends," she explains, and Hunter adds, "We started doing pretty much everything together."

A proposal, however, didn't prompt talk of marriage—an open date on the Abram Farm Event Venue schedule did. Christy asked her sister-in-law, Suzy Abram, who co-owns Abram Farm with Christy's brother, Bill, about saving June 17, 2022, for them. A year later, Suzy needed confirmation. "Hunter and I talked about it and he said, 'Yeah, let's keep the date,'" she says. "That was literally the whole thing."

In planning their fairytale-themed wedding, Christy picked attendants—matron of honor Kate-Lyn Edwards and bridesmaids Alaina Weidman, Kristina Kirby, Melissa Greene, and Meghan Gillespie—and Hunter asked best man Kenny Rafael and groomsman Will Hendry. Bloomington friends Maria Manitta and her sister, Laura, officiated.

Christy found her "perfect" dress at Minerva's Bridal and Prom Outlet in Orlando and completed the look with ballet slippers. Hunter wore a blue Calvin Klein suit from Men's Warehouse.

CHRISTY + HUNTER



As the wedding date neared, Christy had decorations shipped to her parents, Mark and Nancy Thompson, in Bloomington, and they made arrangements with Hunter's parents, Kevin and Valerie Robson.

Hunter and Christy bought their silicone rings on Etsy—a large opal with flower-like leaves in rose gold and a wedding band of little opals for her, and a blue band for Hunter. Their pug dog, Kronk, carried the rings down the

(top) Christy and Hunter celebrate their nuptials on a lake with floating lanterns; (above, left) an open date on the Abram Farm Event Venue schedule determined the wedding date; (above) the Vegan cake created by BB's Market.

aisle. Other participants were flower girl Alice Kelwaski, escorts Joey Long and Jake Cornell, and Polaroid camera–helpers Annaliese Cornell and Neely Warner. The bride’s “Mimi,” Brenda Hidbrader, handled the flower arrangements, and Christy created centerpieces depicting different fairytales for each table at the reception.

With the wedding planned as backward, Seth Teeters photographed everyone beforehand, and then the reception, wedding party introductions, speeches, and dancing followed. Their favorite restaurant, Chipotle, catered the reception.

At 9:45 p.m., the outdoor ceremony began and Christy walked down the aisle with her father at sunset. Twinkle lights hung in the trees and surrounded the nearby pond, which was adorned with floating lanterns.



One of the fairytale-themed centerpieces that Christy created for the reception.

After the ceremony, they cut the vegan cake created by BB’s Market—a semi-naked, cream white cake with lemon and raspberry filling. More dancing ensued and the couple left around midnight, stopping at Pizza X enroute to the Graduate Hotel. The next day, they had brunch at The Runcible Spoon.

The newlyweds embarked on an eight-day Disney cruise to the Caribbean a few months later. They now reside in Orlando. ✨



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Bryce and Andrew Davis became engaged in 2020 and married two years later.



BRYCE +
ANDREW

Lin

'LIKE AND YANG'

By Linda Margison

Photography by Mika LH Photography

In late 2013, Bryce Barker saw Andrew Davis dancing by himself at an Indiana University party and wanted to meet him. But he slipped away. “He was having the time of his life,” says Bryce, who eventually got her chance when a friend set them up later.

“We just hit it off—it was a very natural click,” Andrew says. “I’m a pretty spiritual person—I’m like fire and Bryce is very cool like water—like yin and yang. We were very committed to each other early on.”

In 2020, Bryce was planning a trip to Connecticut to see her parents, Marina and Jeffrey Barker, and booked her flight

(left) The outdoor ceremony held at IU’s Rose Well House; (below, left) Bryce and Andrew are showered with confetti after the June 18, 2022, ceremony; (below) a quartet from the IU Jacobs School of Music performs during the wedding.



for June 19. Andrew then confessed that he had planned to propose that day because of the summer solstice; however, he did alter his plans and gave her a ring from Victor Settle Jewelry before she left.

As a certified event planner, Bryce was in her element. She had all the arrangements locked in long before their June 18, 2022, date, including a wedding planner—Sincerely Yours Weddings and Premier Events—just to help with wedding day coordination. Other local vendors included Mika LH Photography, Von Film, Perfect Parties Tents and Events, and Bloomington Photobooth Company.

With other IU connections besides their own—Bryce’s father and Andrew’s grandfather both attended—Alumni Hall in the Indiana Memorial Union was an easy choice for the reception, while IMU Catering provided the food. The ceremony was held at IU’s Rose Well House with Robert Quick, the father of one of Andrew’s childhood friends, officiating.

While Bryce was visiting her sister and maid of honor, Jacy Davies, in New York City,

(top, left) The three-tier wedding cake made by IU Catering’s Sugar and Spice Bakery; (top, right) Bryce and Andrew share a kiss during their first dance as wife and husband; (right) the selfie station by Bloomington Photobooth Company was a popular reception attraction; (below) Alumni Hall in the Indiana Memorial Union hosted the reception.



she and her mother—on a whim—stopped at BHLDN Weddings and found a dress she says was meant to be. “I walked out and we were both like ‘This is it!’” says Bryce, who asked her best friend Paige Kafantaris to be a bridesmaid.

Tuxedos for Andrew and the groomsmen—best man David Danielson, Mason Quick, and Luke Gallagher—were provided by Andrew Davis Clothiers [no relation], and his ring—a band with turquoise inlay that was fondly reminiscent of his



Bryce and Andrew Davis.

home near Albuquerque—was bought online from Stone Forge Studios.

During the ceremony, music was provided by a quartet from the IU Jacobs School of Music. During Bryce’s walk down the aisle, the group performed one of Andrew’s favorite songs, “La Vie en Rose.”

Bryce says the wedding was just as she wanted it—short and sweet—with both reciting their own vows. Once they took photos, mingled during cocktail hour, ate dinner, and danced, friends joined the newlyweds in visiting some of their college haunts.

Bryce and Andrew are planning a honeymoon trip to Japan in May. ✨

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Guests wave streamers for the newly wed Megan and Joseph Conner.

MEGAN + JOSEPH

FINDING *Love* ON A BENCH

By Linda Margison

Photography by Seth Teeters Photography

Megan Dykhouse and Joseph Conner hung out with the same group of friends, quietly observing one another and each's character. But when a group game night was canceled because a friend wasn't feeling well, Megan and Joseph stayed behind talking—for hours.

"I wanted to tell him my feelings," Megan says. "Even if it didn't go anywhere because I was going to graduate." Joseph was having the same thoughts. "Megan pulled the trigger and beat me to it," Joseph says. "She asked me if we could spend more one-on-one time together, and I said, 'Let's make it a date.'"

For that first date in March 2021, Joseph and Megan went hiking at Leonard Springs Nature Park and found a bench overlooking the wetlands. They sat for hours answering questions from a book to help them get to know one other better.

Seven months later, they were back on that bench, but this time Joseph had a ring—set with a diamond passed down in his mother's family. "He was kind of nervous," Megan says.



(top) The Conners' first kiss as husband and wife; (below, left) Megan and her bridesmaids; (below, center) a loving glance toward each other after the ceremony; (below, right) Megan and Joseph and their parents: (l-r) Rick and Debbie Dykhouse and Julie and John Conner.



MEGAN + JOSEPH



“And he just said, ‘Will you marry me?’” Joseph adds with a chuckle, “She said yes.”

They quickly settled on a date—June 11, 2022—booked a reception venue and caterer—Woolery Mill and One World Catering—and chose their home church—Redeemer Community Church—for the ceremony.

Since Megan’s parents, Rick and Debbie Dykhouse, live in Connecticut, and matron of honor, Laura Barbiea Dykhouse—wife of Megan’s brother Ryan—lives in New York City, they went dress shopping in the city, where Megan found an A-line gown with appliqué and lace to be accentuated by her mother’s veil.

Joseph chose a Calvin Klein tuxedo from Men’s Wearhouse. The groomsmen—best man Kyle Lin, brother Jacob Conner, Ryan Jones, and Megan’s brothers, Ryan and Reagan—wore the suit version with ties matching the vintage mauve and blush tones worn by the bridesmaids—maid of honor Megan Lin, Jessica Kelly, Sara Naumovitz, and Hannah Dykhouse.



The couple, the wedding party, and Megan’s and Joseph’s parents, John and Julie Conner, started the wedding day casually by having breakfast together. Photographer Seth Teeters took posed pictures before heading to the church. ValCinema, Alex Boydston, and Aaron Philips provided videography services, and Red Stiletto did hair and makeup.

Megan’s father walked her down a lantern- and floral-adorned aisle to a rendition of Yurima’s “Love” performed by Jocelyn Zhang and Hyeji Jeong. Flowers were designed by For the Beauty Floral. Pastor Jesse Taylor shared stories about their relationship, which was especially touching to Megan. For the processional, their parents and the wedding party formed a prayer huddle.

(top, left) One World at Woolery Mill hosted the reception; (top, right) a kiss on the dance floor for Megan and Joseph; (above, left) a conga line forms among dancers at the reception; (above) Two Sticks Bakery provided the strawberry and chocolate cake with Italian crème icing and the groom’s cookie cake.

The newlyweds had a streamer and jingle bell sendoff, then headed to the reception for dinner and music by The Dance Machine. Two Sticks Bakery provided the wedding cake—alternating layers of strawberry and chocolate topped with Italian crème icing—and the groom’s cookie cake.

The next day Megan and Joseph flew to Florida for their honeymoon. ✧



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(l-r) Gladys DeVane—as Rosa Parks to commemorate Parks' 105th birthday in 2018—and Elizabeth Mitchell.
Photo by Naama Levy



Telling It

The Way It Was

Dr. Gladys DeVane and Elizabeth Mitchell are on a quest to discover and make known a true account of Black History.

By Carmen Siering

Though they have gone about it in different ways,

Dr. Gladys DeVane and Elizabeth Mitchell have spent years passionately working to correct misinformation and add to the history of Blacks in America, particularly in Indiana. Their mission is telling it like it is and like it has never been told before.

Through prose, poetry, stagecraft, documentary film, collectable memorabilia, and other forms, the two Bloomington women have spent decades bringing to light Black history that has been overlooked, corrupted, or lied about in the so-called official record.



(top, left) In July, Gladys and Gene DeVane will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary; (above, left) a DeVane family portrait from 1987; (above) Gladys ready for the prom in Oklahoma City, circa 1958. *Courtesy photos*

From just months after her birth in September 1939 until age 10, Gladys DeVane lived with her maternal grandparents on a farm near Sayersville, Texas, growing up with her sister and two cousins.

Texas, she says, was a Western state with Southern attitudes.

“The same atrocities we assign to Mississippi and Alabama went on in Texas,” DeVane says. “I remember as a youngster getting in the wagon with my grandfather on Saturdays and going to the nearest town. I often didn’t understand the why, but I understood the what of difference. For example, we couldn’t go into the ice cream parlor; we were served at the side window. We had to go in the side door to get barbeque. It was owned by a Black man, but because he served whites, we had to use the side door.”

Her grandparents didn’t address racism head on, however.

“Approaching a white person, my grandmother would pull me off the sidewalk, out of the way,” she says. “At an early age, I sensed my space was a different space, even though I didn’t realize it was a color thing. I hadn’t established the parameters or realized those parameters were defined by the color of my skin.”

She says that, in retrospect, she feels her grandparents were trying to protect the children in their care from the effects of racism. Learning her place in 1940s Texas, and how to respond to both overt and covert racism, was a process, DeVane says, and one she credits her grandmother with teaching her well.

“My grandmother was hellbent on not teaching us to hate,” she says. “Even though she never said that out loud, I know now as an adult what she was doing because I recall some of her mantras. Things like, ‘Not all white people are bad just like not all Black people are good.’ I think my grandmother did an excellent job of helping me value people for who they are and not for the color of their skin.”

However, when DeVane started public school, the harsh inequalities caused by racism became hard to ignore.

“My first school experience was in a one-room schoolhouse with a potbelly stove,” she says of the segregated school that housed grades one through eight. “We had two teachers and woefully inadequate school supplies. I was young, so I didn’t realize how unequal things were, but I did notice the textbooks were dirty and used and drawn on. We got those books when the white schools were through using them.”

Students weren’t able to continue their education beyond eighth grade unless they had transportation to the county seat in Bastrop, which was a dozen miles away.

When she was in the fourth grade, DeVane’s grandfather died and she moved to Oklahoma City to live with her mother. For a child from rural Texas, the culture shock was tremendous.

“My elementary school was in the center of a Black neighborhood,” DeVane says. “It was a big school, with a cafeteria and an outdoor swimming pool. To me, this was heaven. It was beyond my imagination. But still, it was a segregated school, with all Black teachers, all Black students, in an all-Black neighborhood.”

After graduating from high school in 1958, DeVane attended Oklahoma State University, which had recently been integrated.

“The racism wasn’t overt,” she says. “The white students just kind of ignored us.” She graduated in 1963 with a degree in speech therapy and speech communication. That July, she married Gene DeVane, and the two headed to Bloomington, where she had been accepted into a master’s program at Indiana University.

“My take on Bloomington, in 1963, was I knew there were places I couldn’t go,” DeVane says. “I stayed within the parameters of the university. And I knew there was discrimination within the university.”

In 1982, when she found opportunities for her son inadequate, she and her husband, Gene, helped found Options for Better Living, now called LifeDesigns, an organization that fosters inclusion for individuals with disabilities in Monroe and surrounding counties.

DeVane went on to earn a Ph.D. in speech and hearing sciences from IU, where she taught in both the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences and the Kelley School of Business before retiring in 2003. She and her husband have three sons: Glen, Gerrick, and Gene O.

Gladys DeVane

Liz Mitchell

Born in 1953 at Camp Atterbury Army Hospital in Edinburgh, Indiana, Elizabeth Mitchell was the second of seven children, and the only girl. Her mother died at age 35.

“She had a stroke,” Mitchell says. “High blood pressure is something most of us have. It might be the food we eat, and of course the stress of being Black in America.”

Her father was an officer with the Indianapolis Police Department, eventually making sergeant and becoming a homicide detective.

“He was one of the early ones,” Mitchell says. “He had a walking beat on Indiana Avenue. He couldn’t arrest anyone white, though.”

In spite of the fact that the Indiana General Assembly passed the Indiana School Desegregation Act in 1949, five years before the landmark U.S. Supreme Court *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling, Mitchell’s schooling was segregated until her freshman year in high school.

She expected to go to Crispus Attucks High School just like all Black Indianapolis students since the early 20th century.

Built in 1927 near Indiana Avenue, the business and cultural hub of the city’s African American community, Crispus Attucks was Indianapolis’ only Black high school. No matter where one lived in the city, if you were Black, you went to Attucks.

But, in the fall of 1967, Mitchell was one of 76 Black children bused to Arlington High School in the northeastern part of Indianapolis.

“That was the first time I ever sat next to a white student, and what a culture shock that was,” Mitchell says. “I saw parents show up with bats and rakes because they wanted to make sure we got on those buses after school and got out of their neighborhoods.”

After graduation, Mitchell attended college, first Ball State University, then IUPUI. She worked summers for the Indianapolis Police Department as a clerk typist.

She says her interest in history came from an incident with a man at that job.

“There was an older white guy who was extremely racist, and he didn’t mind telling you that,” Mitchell says. “He would say, ‘Well, I guess I got to get these n-----s to help me.’ And I asked him why he was so hateful. He said Blacks were living on the back of what white people had done. So, I decided to find out if that was true, and when I was finished, I would find out what Japanese Americans have done for America, and the next group after that. That was in 1971. I’m still looking at Black history, and I’ve never had time to move on to those other groups.”

She met her husband, James Mitchell Jr., while they were still in high school. Both attended college for three years, got jobs, and then married in October 1979. James had been recruited by the Indiana State Police and was working in Bloomington. He later joined the Bloomington police force.

“Those early Black guys, to encourage them to quit, they would assign them to white areas,” Mitchell says. “So, he had to do his probation in Monroe County.”

After they married, Mitchell moved to Bloomington and found a job as a postal clerk with the U.S. Postal Service.

“And then we both had something going on,” she says. “I wasn’t the first Black at the post office, but I was the first Black woman. They didn’t want women, and now they didn’t want a Black woman. I was told I was taking a job from a white man.”

The couple knew they wanted to buy a modest home, and in 1981 they did. It wasn’t smooth sailing. The first bank they approached refused to lend them the money. Mitchell is certain it was due to their race. They had no trouble acquiring a mortgage with Bloomfield Bank.

After moving in, Mitchell says she would hear the neighbor children outside calling, “Here n---.”

“It was their dog, a black lab,” she says. “That was the experience we had. But we stayed here and fixed it up. Everything is changed and different from when we bought it.”

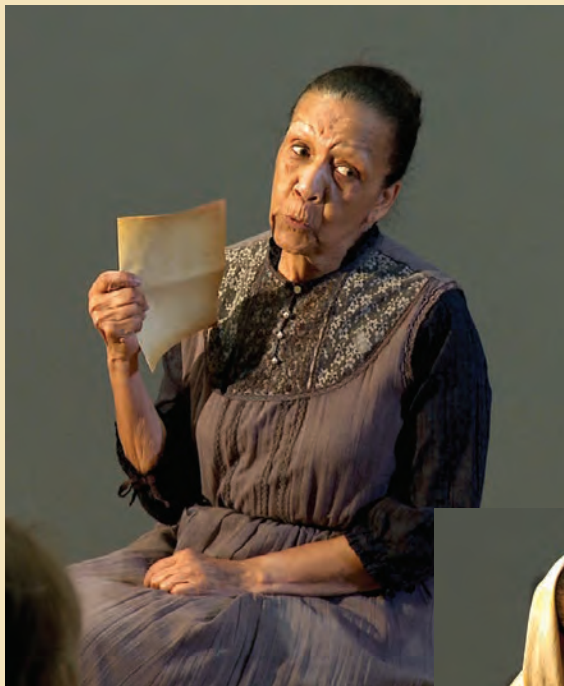
A year into their marriage, the couple adopted a baby boy—James Nicholas.

“My mother said it was meant to be,” Mitchell says. “His name was already James.” And now they are grandparents of two.

“I really started living my life when I retired,” says Mitchell, who left the post office after 35 years. “But nothing beats being a grandmother.”



(top) Liz Mitchell on her wedding day in October 1979; (top) a grade school portrait of young Liz; (above) Liz and her husband, James Mitchell Jr., a retired Bloomington police officer. *Courtesy photos*



(top, right) Mattie Jacobs Fuller came to Bloomington at age 9 as an indentured servant, then was freed when she married at age 14. A beauty salon owner, she played organ for the Bethel A.M.E. Church; (right) Liz Mitchell portrays Fuller in a Resilience Productions performance; (above, top, and center) Gladys DeVane performs as "Elizabeth" in *Elizabeth, A Free Woman of Color* by Resilience Productions. *Courtesy photos*

Finding their passions

When Gladys DeVane was a girl, she learned stagecraft by competing in oratorical contests. She gave dramatic readings, which she calls “storytelling in the form of monologues.” By age 15, she was giving recitals across Oklahoma City.

“I wanted to be an actress, but my mom was very practical,” she says of her decision to study speech therapy and speech communication in college. “She said I needed to major in something that would put food on the table.” It wasn’t until DeVane retired in 2003 that her thoughts turned to the stage once again.

Since then, she has performed with a number of theater companies, including Bloomington Playwrights Project, Cardinal Stage Company, Bloomington Civic Theater, Brown County Theater, and the Knickerbocker Theater in Holland, Michigan.

DeVane wrote her first one-woman show, *From the Mouth of My People: A Journey from Slavery*, in 2007, and presented it at Bloomington Playwrights Project. In 2008, in collaboration with James Mumford, she wrote, produced, and directed *One More River to Cross*, a multimedia performance that utilized images, music, dance, poetry, and drama to tell the story of the African American journey from Africa and slavery to emancipation and the civil rights movement.

It was during that production that she met Mitchell, who played a slave who had her children taken away from her.

“I could just imagine having your children taken away from you,” Mitchell says. “It wasn’t that difficult. I’m a Black woman in America. I’d been researching and traveling America for a long time prior to that. That had been my passion for years, so it wasn’t hard to bring that out.”

Since the racial incident while working at the police department as a college student, Mitchell had been researching the history of Black Americans.

“I found my passion because of that man,” she says. “I love reading and researching and traveling.”

On her travels, she began collecting Jim Crow memorabilia. “When Jim and I were dating, we went to Tennessee to meet his people,” Mitchell says. “We went to a flea market and there was this grocery store check list and a Black woman with a headscarf saying, ‘Reckon I need.’ This was the first piece in an ever-growing collection.

“Last time I counted, I had 400 pieces,” she says. “Now I have them all insured. I haven’t decided what museum to donate them to, but I am going to donate them.”

Like the memorabilia, Mitchell collects stories to help her get a clearer picture of the real history of African Americans in the United States.

In 2005, Clarence Boone and Mitchell began producing *Bring It On!*, a weekly one-hour radio program airing Monday evenings on WFHB-FM. The two invite guests to speak to a variety of topics central to the Black experience. Since the show’s inception, Mitchell has presented “Dark Past, Bright Future,” a monthly history segment focusing on African American history.

“I want to tell the unknown stories on my show,” Mitchell says. “That’s a part of history that’s not in the history books. It gets left out.”

Her family history is also a great source of pride and enlightenment.

“My grandfather was Alonzo J. Watford Sr.,” Mitchell says. “He was born in 1906 and raised in Lafayette [Indiana], pretty much the only Black kid all his way through school. He wanted to go to Purdue, but they wouldn’t have him, so he went to Butler.”

Watford played football at Butler, and in 1927 was second in the nation in scoring. Research indicates Watford became Butler’s first four-year Black football player to graduate. He went on to teach and coach at Crispus Attucks. He had a 150-33-3 record in 23 seasons. He later served as the school’s athletic director.

He was inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame in 1975, and in 1980, the Attucks football field was named after him. Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive is about a half-mile away from Crispus Attucks High School.

Watford made friends in high places. According to *The Indianapolis Star*, Watford was close to three of Indianapolis’ leading citizens, all white men: Butler Coach Tony Hinkle, four-term Indianapolis Mayor William Hudnut, and United States Senator Richard Lugar, who frequented the Watford home.

Watford died in 1984 at age 78. In 1994, he was posthumously inducted into the Butler Athletic Hall of Fame.

Mitchell says her grandfather’s story is one of many that have been ignored, buried, or lost.

“Our history is being taken from us, just like our ancestors were taken,” Mitchell says. “We’re basically being stolen twice.”

Did You Know?

Pan-African/Afro-American Flag

The Pan-African flag, with stripes of red, black, and green, was designed by Jamaican



Photo by Rodney Margison

political activist Marcus Garvey in response to a popular song that said the African American race had no flag of its own. He designed the flag in 1920 to prove the song wrong.

Historically, the colors of the flag are said to have symbolic meaning.

Red represents the blood that has been shed as a result of Black subjugation. Black represents the African people. Green represents the fertility of Africa.

The flag is important today as a symbol of political activism.

Black National Anthem

Often referred to as the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" is a hymn depicting Black struggle and perseverance.

In 1899, James Weldon wrote the lyrics and his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson, set the words to music. The following year, the song was performed by a choir of 500 children at the segregated Stanton School in Jacksonville, Florida, where James was principal and John taught music.

The song spread communally. In 1935, James said, "The school children of Jacksonville kept singing it; they went off to other schools and sang it; they became teachers and taught it to other children."

In 1919, the NAACP named "Lift Every Voice and Sing" its official song. "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was frequently sung during the civil rights marches in the 1950s and protests in the 1960s. It has seen a resurgence recently with the advent of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Resilience Productions

For years, both women were passionate about telling the stories of Black Americans but continued to work in separate spheres until 2014. That's when they came together to form what would become Resilience Productions.

"Gladys and I got together and she said, 'You know all the stories and I like to write, so we ought to team up,'" Mitchell says.

With the approach of Indiana's bicentennial in 2016, the two decided to apply for a grant to fund a play telling the stories of Black Hoosiers. Entitled *Resilience: Indiana's Untold Story*, the play would fill in the gaps of the state's official history.

DeVane had been working with local designer and art historian Danielle Bruce for several years and asked her to help with *Resilience*.

"When they told me they had applied for the grant, I told them they were kidding themselves if they thought this panel of 16 white people were going to give them money to tell how checkered Indiana's history had been," Bruce says. "I told them, yes, they should do the show, but don't hold your breath."

As it turned out, Bruce was right.

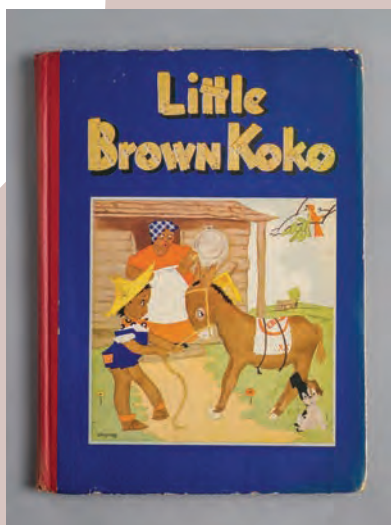
"We wrote that grant and it was good," DeVane says. "We went for the review, and they went on and on about how well-written it was and what a wonderful idea it was. We knew they didn't fund it because of the nature of the show. We were going to tell the stories that you just don't tell."



(l-r) Liz Mitchell, Danielle Bruce, and Gladys DeVane created Resilience Productions in 2015. Photo by Rodney Margison



(clockwise from top, left)(l-r) Gladys DeVane and Mijiza Soyini star in the 2009 Cardinal Stage production of *Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years*. *Courtesy photo*; DeVane as freed slave Fannie Lou Hamer in her one-woman performance of *Lift My People Up*; DeVane (right) as Rosa Parks with Liz Mitchell (center) during the City of Bloomington's celebration to honor Parks' 105th birthday in February 2018; DeVane as Parks with Bloomington Mayor John Hamilton; DeVane speaks as Parks to a group of children inside the Bloomington Transit headquarters during the birthday celebration. *Photos by Naama Levy*



Just a few of the more than 400 pieces of Jim Crow memorabilia in Liz Mitchell's private collection. Eventually, she says, it will be donated to a museum. Photos by Rodney Margison



That didn't stop the trio, who continued to work on the script. Bruce got to know Mitchell during that time.

"We would meet at my house every week and have writing sessions," Bruce says. "We got a script together in those sessions, and that's where I really got to know Liz. I just immediately came to adore her. Her energy against Gladys'—their histories are so different, and they are very different women. Liz shoots from the hip, and Gladys' response is so measured."

Even though the grant didn't come through, the show did. "The community of Bloomington backed us," DeVane says. "The community funded that first play. Ivy Tech supported us by giving us a venue, businesses sponsored us, individuals helped out. That's what catapulted us onto the scene. That first play was sold out."

In 2015, DeVane, Mitchell, and Bruce formed Resilience Productions, each with distinct roles. Mitchell serves as the historian and researcher; DeVane is the writer and storyteller; Bruce works as the director, designer, and dramaturg. DeVane is frequently the solo actor for their one-woman productions.

In 2018, in honor of Monroe County's bicentennial, they produced *Resilience: Stories of Monroe*, which highlights significant moments in the county's history from an African American perspective. Since then, they have brought multiple one-act and single-story pieces to the stage, as well as the Remarkable Women series, which honors the contributions of exceptional women throughout Indiana and the region.

"The primary purpose of Resilience Productions is for people to learn something they didn't know before they took their seats," DeVane says.

Critical Race Theory

Talking about race isn't something most people want to do. In fact, over the past few years, multiple states have curtailed the discussion of race in K-12 schools by banning the teaching of critical race theory.

In reality, critical race theory is most commonly taught in universities, particularly law schools, as a way to understand how race and racism have shaped United States laws and society. Its emphasis is on critiquing how racism is embedded in the

laws, policies, and institutions that uphold and reproduce racial inequalities.

"Critical race theory is a framework that talks about the invasiveness of racism into every aspect of America and how it influences legislation and everything we do," DeVane says. "When I tell you they arrested my ass for sitting on a bus, that's a fact. When I tell you I couldn't go into a theater, that's a fact. What I'm doing is talking to these kids about facts."

DeVane has taken her talks and one-woman shows into area schools for years but says it's getting more difficult now.

"It's not as easy now because everyone is on pins and needles, afraid a kid will go home and tell their parents something out of context and the parents will come in and say they don't want their child to know the history of this country because it made them feel bad," DeVane says. "I say, what was done to the Native Americans made them feel bad. What was done to Blacks made them feel bad. What was done to the Japanese Americans during internment made them feel bad. Let's learn our history so we don't repeat it."

DeVane likes to put her history into a story, allowing the characters to tell their truth to the audience.

"I maintain storytelling is the most unique way of imparting knowledge and generating discussion," DeVane says. "Then the discussion is about the character, and the audience feels freer to talk about the character than they would the topic, which may be a hot topic."

DeVane's characters include better-known women like Rosa Parks, whom she portrayed in 2018 to commemorate what would have been the activist's 105th birthday, and lesser-known women such as Fannie Lou Hamer, a voting and civil rights activist who co-founded the Freedom Democratic Party, which she represented at the 1964 Democratic National Convention.

The most recent is Frances Watkins Harper, an abolitionist, suffragist, temperance activist, teacher, and writer. She was the first African American woman to publish a short story in the United States.

"This isn't about making anyone feel bad," DeVane says. "It's about understanding the history of a community, of a people. Until we deal with that history, and understand how that history shapes attitudes and behaviors, we're damned to repeat it."

Mitchell shares local Black history differently. One way is by giving tours of important Bloomington sites in the history of African Americans. Groups can contact her about arranging a group tour, but she's happy to take anyone around in her car.

Mitchell says Bloomington does a good job of telling the story of the Covenanters (a Scottish Presbyterian movement that opposed slavery) and their efforts to help escaped slaves, and of the white conductors of the Underground Railroad, like the Faris and Curry families.

“What I want is to make sure people know there were African American conductors,” she says. Women like Auntie Myrears and her sister, who lived on what is now South Rogers Street, and men like Knolly Baker, the first Black barber in Bloomington, who helped escaped slaves brought here from Salem, Indiana, by his son-in-law William Hawkins.

Racism in Monroe County housing

Mitchell is also part of a group looking at racially restrictive housing in Monroe County.

“We’re looking into the records, into the covenants and deeds,” she says. “There are still things on the books, things that say Blacks can’t buy or rent houses. And we have names—including some of the Covenanters. The very people who were credited with being so good for helping the escaped slaves didn’t want them to stay here.”

In 1917, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that racially discriminatory zoning ordinances were in violation of the 14th Amendment. However, many municipalities skirted the law by allowing racial covenants between individuals. It wasn’t until the Fair Housing Act of 1968 that the covenants were determined to be a violation of the Constitution.

“Bloomington itself was not a sundown town, but it had sundown neighborhoods, and Maxwell Manors, on the east side, was one of them,” Mitchell says. “Unless you were a live-in maid, you had to be out of the neighborhood by sundown. That was in their covenant, and it was signed by the city commissioners. That was well known.”

The Monroe County Recorder’s Office notes that the 1927 deed from Maxwell Manors reads: “The ownership and

occupancy of lots or buildings in this subdivision are forever restricted to members of the pure white race.”

More than 1,000 deeds with racially restrictive language have been found so far. Most homeowners don’t know about the language in their deeds, and even today such language cannot be removed. However, in 2021, the Indiana General Assembly passed a bill that allows homeowners to show their opposition by drafting documents clarifying the covenants’ illegality.

Looking to the future

Current and future projects keep both women busy.

DeVane has published a book, *Come Sit with Me*, a collection of poetry, prose, and plays. She recently began a five-part series of online conversations in which she shares excerpts from the book, new works, and introduces new African American writers to her audience.

“A lot of what Gladys is doing is re-education and a correction of history,” says Stephana Colbert, owner of Jewell Jordan Publishing and DeVane’s publisher. “With these Zoom events we’re expanding the people who are exposed to Gladys and her work.”

The online conversations will continue each month through April. For more information, visit jewelljordanpublishing.com.

Another possible future project involves a documentary of DeVane’s life and work.

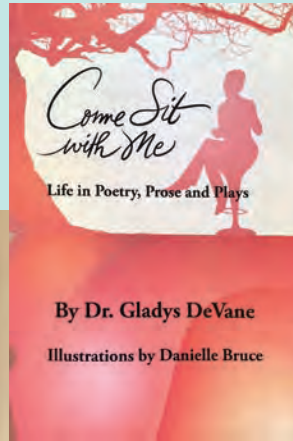
“We’ve had an initial discussion with two young filmmakers from Philadelphia,” Colbert says. “In an effort to share Gladys more globally, they want to interview her and include her reflections on who she is, how she got here, and her legacy—what she wants to leave.”

Colbert says that while the possibility of a film is just that, a possibility, any decisions will be made relatively soon.

“We’re not looking for this to be five years from now,” she says. “If we get it done, we’ll get it done in the next 12 months.”

DeVane isn’t sitting still. She’s constantly producing new material. She has two poems—“The Soul of a Rich Man” and “If Black Lives Mattered”—that are completed.

“They are so timely, they’re about what is happening right now,” DeVane says. “I haven’t wrapped my head around how it will be presented. The question is, do I wait until I have enough for a full-blown book or do I just want to put it out there?”



(clockwise from top, right) Gladys DeVane's 2021 book, *Come Sit With Me*; Whyrne Reed performs a poetic interlude by Lat Joor Awa Gaye during 2016 performance of *Resilience: Indiana's Untold Story* at the John Waldron Arts Center; Amy Roche plays Sally Hart, I. James Torrey plays Vertus Hardiman, and Jeff Albertson plays attorney Elmer McGee in *Resilience: Indiana's Untold Story*; (l-r) Liz Mitchell as Mattie Jacobs Fuller along with DeVane and Danielle Bruce at the Monroe County Bicentennial kickoff at the Monroe County Courthouse in January 2018. *Courtesy photos*



(left) The West Baden First Baptist (Colored) Church in West Baden Springs, Indiana, before renovations began in 2016; (below) after nearly \$200,000 in renovations, the church reopened in October 2021 and hosts regular services every Sunday.

Courtesy photos



Relevant Websites

For more information on racial covenants visit the University of Minnesota site: mappingprejudice.umn.edu

WFHB-FM radio program *Bring it On!*: wfhb.org/category/public-affairs/bringiton/

Resilience Productions: resilienceproductions.org

For more dates on Gladys' Zoom presentations: Jewell Jordan Publishing: jewelljordanpublishing.com

Lyrics to "Lift Every Voice and Sing": naacp.org/find-resources/history-explained/lift-every-voice-and-sing

Mitchell, too, is busy with ongoing and future projects. One, a documentary about the historic West Baden First Baptist (Colored) Church, has been a long-term labor of love.

“In 2014 this church was put on Indiana’s most endangered list of historic places,” Mitchell says. The town of West Baden Springs sold the property to the Southeastern District Association of the Indiana Missionary Baptist State Convention for \$1 and the group set to work.

Mitchell, a member of Second Baptist Church in Bloomington, spearheaded the fundraising effort to save the church, built in 1920. It served the Black families working at the historic West Baden Hotel, who established the congregation in 1909.

The hotel owner, Lee Sinclair, recruited Black employees for the resort. But in an era of segregation, they needed their own church. Rather than have them go the mile to services in French Lick, Sinclair sold his employees the land in 1909 for \$1. As the fortunes of the hotel faded, so did the congregation. The last remaining parishioner signed the church property over to the West Baden Historical Society in 1992.

Though they took control of the property in 2014, it took two years to gather enough funding to begin work. From 2016 to 2020, volunteers, most in their 70s and 80s, worked to restore the structure. Then the pandemic hit.

“The pandemic put everything on hold,” Mitchell says. “No one went down for two years. Our volunteers are old, and we couldn’t take a chance with their health.”

The total cost of the restoration was nearly \$200,000. Most of those funds were raised through donations, with the exception of one Indiana Landmarks grant.

An invitation-only celebration service was held in October 2021. Now regular services are held every Sunday at the little

church at the corner of Elm and Sinclair streets. Mitchell is finalizing a film documenting the restoration. She received grants from Indiana Humanities and from the Indiana Landmarks African American Heritage Fund.

Plans are to premiere the film at the West Baden Hotel where the original parishioners of the church worked. WTIU-TV has requested to air the film, and Mitchell plans to submit the documentary to the Heartland Film Festival, where *Rev. Marvin Chandler: Open to the Moment*, was shown in 2019. Mitchell was a producer on that film.

Locally, Mitchell is working on a new project, an African American Heritage Trail. She hopes to include such landmarks as the Princess Theatre, 206 N. Walnut, where George Taliaferro took down the “Colored” sign, effectively desegregating the theater. Other spots would honor Black conductors on the Underground Railroad, and the many “firsts” in Bloomington—locations where Black Bloomingtonians were the first to break the color barrier into professions previously barred to the African American race.

“I hope to start at 1818, beginning with 10 sites, then add one per year,” Mitchell says. “I want the city, county, and IU to come on board and work together on this, not only to educate the community, but also visitors to Bloomington.”

Resilience Productions continues to do its work. More one-act and one-woman dramas are planned, all bringing history to life for receptive audiences.

“If you want people to change, you have to give them the opportunity,” Bruce says. “It will take more than one book, more than one show, more than one conversation. It’s a process. There is no one thing that that will eradicate racism.” ✨

Awards

Some of Elizabeth Mitchell’s Awards

- 2010—City of Bloomington Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award
- 2010—Indiana University Martin Luther King Jr. Building Bridges Award
- 2012—City of Bloomington Legacy Award
- 2018—Indiana Historical Society Hubert Hawkins Local History Award
- 2019—Golden Hoosier Award
- 2022—Indiana Humanities Hero
- 2022—Bloom Magazine Community Award

Some of Gladys DeVane’s Awards

- 2003—Indiana University Office of Diversity Distinguished Service Award
- 2008—Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center Unsung Hero Award
- 2012—City of Bloomington Black History Month Living Legend Award
- 2012—City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women Lifetime Contribution Award
- 2019—City of Bloomington Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award
- 2022—Bloomington Rotary Clubs Service Above Self Award
- 2022—Bloom Magazine Community Award

The Big Picture





A Cold Day in Bloomington

Photo by Jeremy Hogan
of *The Bloomingtonian*

A bicyclist navigates East Kirkwood, which is covered with ice and a thin layer of snow, during a winter storm on Thursday, December 22, 2022. The temperature had been in the 40s earlier that day but dropped to minus 1°F by 12:22 a.m. Friday.

\$: under \$15 • \$\$: \$15–\$25
\$\$\$: \$25–\$35 • \$\$\$\$: over \$35

Dining ut

A sampling of area restaurants.

DUE TO POSSIBLE CHANGES RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, PLEASE CHECK WITH THE RESTAURANT FOR CURRENT HOURS AND POLICIES.

21 North

Modern American, Sandwiches, Salads

21 N. Jefferson St.

Martinsville, Indiana

765-315-0767 • 21northeatearyandcellar.com

Take a trip to Chef Matt Harakal's rustic-modern 21 North restaurant in Martinsville, Indiana, for the beer-battered fish and chips, pan-seared salmon, and chicken and champagne sauce with linguini, as well as a selection of burgers. • **Prices:** Lunch: \$\$; Dinner: \$\$\$ • **Hours:** Tue.–Thu. 11 a.m.–9 p.m.; Fri.–Sat. 11 a.m.–10 p.m. • **Bar:** Full • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX • **Outdoor Seating:** No

Aver's Public House

Pizza, Salads, Sandwiches, Vegetarian

1285 S. College Mall Road

812-331-5555 • averspublichouse.com

Aver's Public House strives to be a welcoming place where there is something for everyone. The full-service restaurant features award-winning pizza, pasta, sandwiches, salads, and a bar with over 100 offerings. Order the pizza pan nachos to share, and follow with an Italian beef sandwich or one of their signature pizzas. Can't decide? Order a pizza flight and try a slice each from four of their signature pies. • **Prices:** \$–\$\$ • **Hours:** Daily 11 a.m.–10 p.m. • **Bar:** Beer, wine • **Credit Cards:** Yes • **Outdoor Seating:** No

Bangkok Thai Cuisine

South/Southeast Asian, Thai, Vegetarian

2920 E. Conventaner Drive

812-333-7477

bangkokthaicuisinebloomington.com

Even with its modern aesthetic, Bangkok Thai offers a traditional Thai menu including noodle dishes, seafood, curries, and fried rice. Try the Drunken Man's Noodles—wide rice noodles stir-fried with

basil, peppers, and egg in a spicy sauce.

• **Prices:** Lunch: \$, Dinner: \$\$ • **Hours:** Tu.–Th. 11 a.m.–3 p.m. and 5 p.m.–9 p.m.; Fri.–Sat. 11 a.m.–10 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.–9 p.m.; Closed Mon. • **Bar:** Beer, wine • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc. • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes

Bloomingfoods Market and Deli

Buffet, Delicatessen, Vegetarian,

Vegan, Gluten-Free

3220 E. 3rd St. • 812-336-5400

316 W. 6th St. • 812-333-7312

bloomingfoods.coop

The cafés at each of these member-owned organic groceries feature salads, soups, made-to-order sandwiches, and baked goods, as well as a hot bar with salad, lunch, and dinner items every day from 10:30 a.m.–9 p.m. The East 3rd Street location also has smoothies. • **Prices:** \$–\$\$\$ • **Hours:** East 3rd Street Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–10 p.m. (breakfast until 10:30 a.m.); Sat. 8 a.m.–10 p.m. (breakfast until 11 a.m.); Sun. 8 a.m.–10 p.m. (brunch until 2 p.m.); West 6th Street Mon.–Sat. 7:30 a.m.–10 p.m.; Sun. 7:30 a.m.–10 p.m. (brunch until 2 p.m.); • **Bar:** No • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc., Campus Access • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes

Bucceto's Smiling Teeth

Italian, Pizza, Vegetarian, Gluten-Free

E. 3rd St. at 45/46 Bypass • 812-331-1234

350 S. Liberty Dr. • 812-323-0123

buccetos.com

Bucceto's Smiling Teeth offers an array of innovative and tasty pizzas, calzones, entrées, and a generous house salad with homemade dressings in a family-friendly atmosphere. Bucceto's offers dine-in, carryout, and delivery. Party trays and catering available. • **Prices:** \$–\$\$ • **Hours:** Sun.–Th. 11 a.m.–9 p.m.; Fri.–Sat. 11 a.m.–10 p.m. • **Bar:** Beer, wine • **Credit Cards:**

Visa, MC, AMEX, Campus Access • **Outdoor Seating:** No • **Accessibility Decal**

BuffaLouie's

American, Sandwiches, Salads

114 S. Indiana Ave.

812-333-3030 • buffalouies.com

In 1987, an IU student opened BuffaLouie's, naming it after his grandfather. Burgers, wings, subs, and salads are the reason to go. Hoosier and sports-themed memorabilia adorn the walls, and big-screen TVs keep you entertained. • **Prices:** \$–\$\$\$ • **Hours:** Sun.–Wed. 10:30 a.m.–11 p.m.; Th.–Sat. 10:30 a.m.–midnight • **Bar:** Beer • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc., Campus Access • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes • **Fair Labor Decal**

C3

American, Brunch, Fine Dining, Small Plates Bistro

Renwick Village Center, 1505 S. Piazza Drive

812-287-8027 • c3bloomington.com

In addition to innovative after-work cocktails, C3 features a rotating menu of seasonally inspired dishes. Starters include soups and salads as well as beef filet sliders, hand-cut frites, and more. Entrées feature local meats, fresh seafood, and handmade pasta dishes. • **Prices:** \$\$–\$\$\$ • **Hours:** Mon.–Th. 4–10 p.m.; Fri.–Sat. 4 p.m.–midnight.; Closed Sun. • **Bar:** Full • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc. • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes

Cardinal Spirits

Distillery, Bar, Vegetarian, Vegan, Gluten-Free

922 S. Morton St.

812-202-6789 • cardinalsprits.com

This Bloomington-based craft distillery has won awards for its vodka, whiskey, and gin, all created with local ingredients. Now, Cardinal Spirits has added a dinner and brunch menu. Tours of the distillery are offered on weekends. **Prices:** \$\$ •

Hours: Tasting Room Bar: Mon.–Thurs. 4 p.m.–10 p.m.; Fri. noon to midnight; Sat. 10 a.m.–midnight; Sun. 10 a.m.–9 p.m.; Dinner: 4 p.m.–9 p.m. daily; Brunch: Sat.–Sun. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. • **Bar:** Limited • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes

Che Bello

Italian, Lunch, Salads, Sandwiches, Small Plates
106 W. 6th St.
812-323-0303 • chebellokitchen.com

Che Bello is a casual Italian restaurant where the food is made fresh using authentic Italian cooking methods. Fresh-baked focaccia bread is served with every meal. Try the Lasagna Bolognese, the Chicken Liguria, or the Tonno Alla Ghiotta. Featuring a variety of local, domestic, and imported beers, an extensive wine list, and a diverse martini selection. • **Prices:** \$\$-\$\$\$\$ • **Hours:** Sun., Tue.–Fri. 4:30–9:30 p.m.; Sat. 4:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. • **Bar:** Full • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AME. • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes

Crazy Horse Food & Drink Emporium
American, Pub Food, Sandwiches, Steaks
214 W. Kirkwood
812-336-8877 • crazyhorseindiana.com

The specialties of the house include flavored martinis; build-your-own Angus beef, grilled chicken, and veggie burgers; quesadillas; steaks; and barbecued ribs. Go Around the World in 80 Beers and be immortalized on a plaque. • **Prices:** \$-\$\$\$ • **Hours:** Sun.–Wed. 11 a.m.–1 a.m.; Th.–Sat. 11 a.m.–2 a.m. • **Bar:** Full • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc., DC, Campus Access • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes

El Rancharo

Mexican, Vegetarian
2100 Liberty Dr., Suite C • 812-822-2329
3615 W. Ind. 46 • 812-876-9900
110 E. Winslow Rd. • 812-822-1302
elrancharofood.com

This west side Mexican spot boasts a massive dining room with high ceilings and a party atmosphere. There are plenty of booths, too, if you prefer a more intimate meal. Share one of the specialties, like the Marrano Ranchero, featuring grilled pork shoulder with spicy red sauce and a generous helping of avocado. The lengthy menu is full of variations on the standard burritos, enchiladas, and fajitas. Alongside complimentary chips and salsa, you won't go hungry! • **Prices:** \$-\$\$ • **Hours:** Sun.–Th. 11 a.m.–9:30 p.m.; Fri.–Sat. 11 a.m.–10 p.m. • **Bar:** Full • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc. • **Outdoor Seating:** No

FARMBloomington
American, Breakfast, Brunch
108 E. Kirkwood
812-323-0002 • 877-440-FARM
farm-bloomington.com

Chef Daniel Orr's FARM is a cheerful, tongue-in-cheek salute to the best of Hoosier eating. In the old Oddfellows Building, revamped to look like a country farm store, FARM sells lunch, snacks, and locally made products in the market and delicious supper fare in the restaurant. The menu changes seasonally, but try to catch the seared skirt steak with fabulous garlic and chili fries. Orr's raw fish preparations are excellent, as are the pizzas in the bar. • **Prices:** \$-\$\$\$ • **Hours:** FARM: Tu.–Fri. 7 a.m.–10 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–10 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m.–9 p.m.; Closed Mon; Root Cellar: weeknight hours vary; Fri.–Sat. 8 p.m.–3 a.m.; Sun. 10 a.m.–10 p.m.; Closed Mon. • **Bar:** Full • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc. • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes

Feast Market & Cellar

American, Bakery, Breakfast, Brunch, Café, Small Plates, Vegetarian
407 W. Patterson Drive
812-287-8615 • feastcateringonline.com

Along with their fresh and fanciful ingredients, Feast offers a comfortable, cosmopolitan atmosphere with wine racks lining the walls, floor to ceiling. Serving lunch, dinner, and weekend brunch, Feast also has a full coffee bar, bakery, and wine cellar for meals, take out, or just drinks and snacks. • **Prices:** \$-\$\$\$ • **Hours:** Tu.–Sat. 9 a.m.–9 p.m.; Sun. 9 a.m.–2 p.m.; Closed Mon. • **Bar:** Wine • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc. • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes • **Fair Labor Decal**

Gables Bagels

Breakfast, Brunch, Sandwiches, Vegetarian, Gluten-Free
421 E. 3rd St.
812-325-2120 • gablesbagels.com

Ed Schwartzman, owner of Gables Bagels, has brought authentic New York City bagels to Bloomington with 11 bagel flavors and 10 schmears to choose from. In addition to a lunch time selection, Gables Bagels has everything you need for a delicious brunch. • **Prices:** \$-\$\$ • **Hours:** Daily 6:30 a.m.–2 p.m. • **Bar:** No • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc. • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes



Hive Bloomington

International Comfort Food, Chicken, Burgers, Vegetarian, Vegan, Gluten-Free
2608 E. 10th St.

812-287-7405 • hivebloomington.com

While Hive specializes in chicken and serves up whole roast birds, complete with fixings, the restaurant also offers Smashburgers, Vietnamese Banh Mi sandwiches, ramen, and Cuban breakfast bowls among its extensive all-day menu. But be sure to save room for dessert. Hive is famous for its Hive Pie—their take on a classic Hoosier favorite, sugar cream pie. • **Prices:** \$\$ • **Hours:** Mon.–Sat. 7 a.m.–9 p.m.; Sun. 9 a.m.–2 p.m. • **Bar:** No • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc. • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes

The Irish Lion

Brunch, European, Irish, Pub Food
212 W. Kirkwood

812-336-9076 • irishlion.com

Step into Ireland when you enter this pub with its gorgeous 1860s bar and good food. Specialties include oysters, lamb, corned beef and cabbage, and Irish stews. Nightly specials. Full array of Irish and European imported beers; 57 single-malt scotches. • **Prices:** \$-\$\$\$\$ • **Hours:** Mon.–Sat. 11 a.m.–3 a.m.; Sun. 11 a.m.–midnight • **Bar:** Full • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc., DC • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes

Janko's Little Zagreb

American, European, Steaks, Vegetarian
223 W. 6th St.

812-332-0694 • littlezagreb.com

A Bloomington favorite, with its checked tablecloths and IU-decked walls, Janko's is one block west of the downtown Square. Lamb and pork chop specials are featured regularly, and the menu offers Eastern European specialties like fiery Bucharest meatballs, but fabulous steaks are the reason most people line up to get in. • **Prices:** \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$ • **Hours:** Mon.–Th. 5–9 p.m.; Fri.–Sat. 4:30–10 p.m.; Closed Sun.; Reservations recommended. • **Bar:** Beer, wine • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, DC • **Outdoor Seating:** No

Lennie's

American, Italian, Pizza, Sandwiches, Vegetarian, Gluten-Free
514 E. Kirkwood

812-323-2112 • lenniesbloomington.com

Lennie's offers eclectic dishes that include main-course salads, gourmet pizzas, pastas, sandwiches, and daily dinner and soup specials. Try the rustic flat breads, hearth-baked daily and lightly topped with fresh ingredients. • **Prices:** \$\$-\$\$\$ • **Hours:** Sun.–Mon., Wed.–Thu. 11 a.m.–10 p.m.;

Fri.–Sat. 11 a.m.–11 p.m. • **Bar:** Beer, wine • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes • **Accessibility Decal** • **Fair Labor Decal**

Malibu Grill

American, Seafood, Steaks, Vegetarian, Vegan, Gluten-Free
106 N. Walnut

812-332-4334 • malibugrill.net

Malibu Grill, on the east side of the downtown Square, offers casual dining in an upscale atmosphere for 200 diners. Specialties include spinach & artichoke dip, Caesar salad, lime chicken fettuccini, and caramelized salmon. Live jazz Wed.–Fri. 6–9 p.m. • **Prices:** \$-\$\$\$\$ • **Hours:** Mon.–Th. 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m. and 5:30–9:30 p.m.; Fri. 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m. and 5:30–10:30 p.m.; Sat. noon–10:30 p.m.; Sun. noon–9 p.m.; Reservations accepted only during the week; 20-minute call-ahead service available. • **Bar:** Full • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc., DC • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes • **Fair Labor Decal**

My Thai Cafe

Soups, South/Southeast Asian, Thai, Vegetarian

3316 W. 3rd St. • 812-333-2234

402 E. 4th St. • 812-333-3993

mythaicafeusa.com

The first location for this beautiful little restaurant is hidden away in a strip mall on the west side of Bloomington. My Thai Cafe's second location is on 4th Street restaurant row and also serves Thai family recipes cooked to your preferred degree of spiciness. Look for noodle dishes featuring the sweet and spicy "chef's gravy," and try the fragrant curries. • **Prices:** Lunch: \$, Dinner: \$\$ • **Hours:** West 3rd Street: Mon.–Th. 11 a.m.–3 p.m. and 4:30–9 p.m.; Fri. 11 a.m.–3 p.m. and 4:30–10 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m.–10 p.m.; Closed Sun., East 4th Street: Tu.–Th. 11 a.m.–3 p.m. and 4:30–9 p.m.; Fri. 11 a.m.–3 p.m. and 4:30–10 p.m.; Sat. noon–10 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m.–9 p.m.; Closed Mon. • **Bar:** Beer • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, Disc. • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes

Nick's English Hut

American, Pub Food
423 E. Kirkwood

812-332-4040 • nicksenglishhut.com

A Bloomington institution for more than 80 years, Nick's is the place to go for Gregg "Rags" Rago's famous Nick's Burger, strombolis, pizza, soups, salads, and sandwiches prepared with locally produced meats and produce. Enjoy daily food and drink specials while watching your favorite sports on the many high-definition TVs.

A museum of IU memorabilia is displayed on the walls. • **Prices:** \$-\$\$\$ • **Hours:** Tu.–Th. 11 a.m.–1 a.m. and Fri.–Sat. 11 a.m.–2 a.m. Reservations are recommended for large parties. • **Bar:** Full • **Credit Cards:** Cash preferred, but Visa, MC, and Disc. are accepted. • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes • **Fair Labor Decal**

Osteria Rago

Italian, Pizza, Pasta, Sandwiches, Salads, Vegetarian, Gluten-Free

419 E. Kirkwood

(812) 822-0694 • osteriarago.com

Regular visits to the small Italian town of Alessandria del Carretto inspired owners Gregg Rago and Susan Bright to bring authentic Italian cuisine to Bloomington. Osteria Rago is known for its housemade pastas and wood-fired, Neapolitan-style pizza, all served up in a rustic setting. After their meals, diners can enjoy organic Brown County Coffee at the restaurant's espresso bar. **Prices:** \$\$ • **Hours:** Tu.–Sat. 11 a.m.–9 p.m.; Sun.–Mon. for private affairs. • **Bar:** Yes • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc. • **Outdoor Seating:** No

The Owlery

Brunch, Vegetarian, Vegan, Gluten-Free
118 W. 6th St.

812-333-7344 • theowleryrestaurant.com

This hip but comfortable vegetarian restaurant is furnished with vintage enameled tables and a small bar serving a carefully curated selection of beers. Menu options range from faux meat sandwiches to pierogies and Asian veggie bowls. Try a riff on fish and chips: Battered and fried tofu is flavored with nori, adding a hint of the sea. A display case full of vegan layer cakes and cupcakes provides visual incentive to leave a little room for something sweet. • **Prices:** \$-\$\$ • **Hours:** Call for hours • **Bar:** Beer • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc. • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes • **Fair Labor Decal**

Peach Garden

East Asian, Chinese, Vegetarian, Vegan
536 S. College

812-332-3437 • peachgardeniu.com

This small but colorful restaurant is tucked into the side of the Seminary Square Park Kroger supermarket. As one of only a handful of Chinese restaurants offering delivery in Bloomington, Peach Garden does brisk business dispatching food to customers in and out of the dining room. Szechuan and Kung Pao specialties are sneakily spicy, with heat that creeps up the back of your throat. Try pan-fried Szechuan wontons filled with pork or chicken. • **Prices:** \$-\$\$ • **Hours:** Tu.–Th. 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m., 5–10 p.m.; Fri. 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m., 5–11 p.m.; Sat.–Sun. noon–11 p.m.

• **Bar:** No • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Campus Access • **Outdoor Seating:** No

Runcible Spoon Cafe and Restaurant
American, Breakfast, Brunch, Café,
Vegetarian, Vegan

412 E. 6th St. • 812-334-3997
runciblespoonrestaurant.com

A beloved Bloomington landmark, the Runcible Spoon has kept its funky atmosphere while expanding its menu to include not only luscious breakfasts, but also pastas and sandwiches at lunch and more classic dishes at night. Live, traditional Irish music is featured on Tuesdays. • **Prices:** \$-\$\$ • **Hours:** Daily 8 a.m.–midnight. • **Bar:** Beer, wine • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc. • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes • **Fair Labor Decal**

Samira Restaurant

Afghan, Buffet, Middle Eastern, Vegetarian
100 W. 6th St.

812-331-3761 • samirasrestaurant.com

Located on the north side of the downtown Square, Samira features Afghan dishes in an elegant, relaxing atmosphere. Specialties include kebabs and dumplings as well as a wide array of vegetarian dishes. Do not miss the samarok (a spicy mushroom appetizer)—you'll want to sop up every drop of sauce with the chewy and delicious flatbread. Great baklava. • **Prices:** \$-\$\$ • **Hours:** Mon.–Thu. 11 a.m.–2 p.m. and 5–9 p.m.; Fri. 11 a.m.–2 p.m. and 5–10 p.m.; Sat. 5–10 p.m.; Closed Sun.; Reservations recommended. • **Bar:** Beer, wine • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc. • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes • **Fair Labor Decal**

Siam House

South/Southeast Asian, Thai, Vegetarian
430 E. 4th St.

812-331-1233 • siamhousebloomington.com

The 90-item menu was one of the first local restaurants to list vegetarian options using healthy, fresh foods. Specialties include pad thai, curries, combo seafood platters, spicy Thai and coconut-milk soups, and miang kom (fresh spinach leaves folded into a cone and filled with ginger, peanuts, coconut, etc.). • **Prices:** \$-\$\$ • **Hours:** Mon.–Fri. 11 a.m.–10 p.m.; Sat. noon–10 p.m.; Sun. noon–9 p.m. • **Bar:** Beer, wine • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc. • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes

Small Favors

Multicultural, Farm-to-Table, Vegetarian,
Small Plates

402 1/2 W. 6th St.
smallfavorsbar.com

A fair-wages wine bar and farm-to-table café, Small Favors directly sources from local farmers

whenever possible, with most of its proteins coming from the purchase of whole animals. Providing a changing menu of small to full-plate fare like Green Gumbo, Chicken Liver Parfait, Smoked Trout, Duck Prosciutto, and fried Brussels sprouts with ricotta and honey. Features an extensive and unique wine list. • **Prices:** \$\$-\$\$\$ • **Hours:** Wed.–Sat. 5–11 p.m. • **Bar:** Wine, wine cocktails • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX • **Outdoor Seating:** No

Social Cantina

Mexican, Vegetarian
125 N. College

812-287-8199 • thesocialcantina.com

The modern Mexican fare at the Social Cantina includes a variety of nacho, queso, and salsa appetizers; soups and salads; tacos; and Cantina Bowls. Try the Despacito bowl, which features citrus-marinated pork, salsa verde, tomatillo crema, cabbage, pico de gallo, and cilantro. All tacos and cantina bowls can be made vegetarian with the substitution of Impossible meat. To drink, choose from a menu of craft cocktails and specialty margaritas. • **Prices:** \$-\$\$ • **Hours:** Sun.–Thu. 11 a.m.–12 a.m.; Fri.–Sat. 11 a.m.–1 a.m. • **Bar:** Yes • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc. • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes

Taste of India

Buffet, Indian, South/Southeast Asian,
Vegetarian, Vegan

316 E. 4th St.

812-333-1399 • tasteofindiabtown.com

This airy, casual restaurant specializes in northern and southern-Indian cuisine. The tikkas, vindaloos, and kormas are all good and cooked to your desired level of spiciness. The southern-Indian dosa—a lentil-and-rice crêpe with various fillings—is terrific. Slather on some coconut chutney and enjoy with a savory tamarind lentil stew. • **Prices:** Lunch: \$, Dinner: \$-\$\$ • **Hours:** Daily 11 a.m.–3 p.m. and 4:30–10 p.m. • **Bar:** No • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc. • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes • **Fair Labor Decal**

The Elm Restaurant

Modern American, Vegetarian, Comfort Food,
Café

614 E. 2nd St.

812-407-4339 • elmbloomington.com

At The Elm, they believe that food brings people together. The restaurant offers coffee at their walk-up café, after-work cocktails at the full bar, and dinners for any occasion. The innovative, chef-driven menu rotates regularly to draw on seasonal fare and ensure fresh, farm-to-table dining. Offerings include creative dishes and small plates ranging from simple to sophisticated.

• **Prices:** \$\$-\$\$\$ • **Café Hours:** Tues.–Fri. 7:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. • **Dinner Hours:** Wed.–Sat. 5 p.m.–10 p.m. • **Bar:** Full • **Credit Cards:** Yes • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes

Trojan Horse

American, Greek, Mediterranean,
Sandwiches, Vegetarian, Vegan

100 E. Kirkwood

812-332-1101 • thetrojanhorse.com

Casual and family-friendly, the Trojan Horse, on the southeast corner of the downtown Square, serves great Greek food and other Mediterranean treats. The Trojan Horse is also famous for its hand-cut fries. Drink specials are offered every night. • **Prices:** \$-\$\$ • **Hours:** Mon.–Th. 11 a.m.–11 p.m.; Fri.–Sat. 11 a.m.–midnight; Sun. 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m. • **Bar:** Full • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc. • **Outdoor Seating:** No

Upland's Bloomington Brewpub

American, Pub Food, Vegetarian, Vegan
350 W. 11th St.

812-336-2337 • uplandbeer.com

The menu includes pub favorites such as fish and chips, as well as many dishes that include Upland's craft-brewed beers as ingredients. The menu runs from sandwiches (try the buffalo burgers) to entrées, and many vegetarian/vegan specials are also offered. Live entertainment. Beers regularly on tap include wheat, pale, IPA, porter, and a rotating selection of sours. • **Prices:** \$-\$\$\$ • **Hours:** Mon.–Th. 11 a.m.–midnight; Fri.–Sat. 11 a.m.–1 a.m.; Sun. noon–midnight • **Bar:** Beer, including carryout, and wine • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes

The Uptown Cafe

American, Brunch, Cajun/Creole, Steaks
102 E. Kirkwood

812-339-0900 • the-uptown.com

The New Orleans-style Uptown Cafe is known for Cajun/Creole-inspired fare (try the Cajun meatloaf), fresh steaks, seafood, and extravagant breakfast and brunch items, including Cottage Cheese Pancakes, eggs Benedict, and Michael's Home Fries. Jazz and soul music complement your meal. Uptown's bar serves craft beer, fine wine, artisan spirits, and classic cocktails. • **Prices:** \$\$-\$\$\$ • **Hours:** Mon.–Th. 7 a.m.–10 p.m.; Fri. 7 a.m.–midnight; Sat. 8 a.m.–midnight; Sun. brunch 9 a.m.–2 p.m. • **Bar:** Full • **Credit Cards:** Visa, MC, AMEX, Disc. • **Outdoor Seating:** Yes • **Fair Labor Decal**

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CONTACT CASSAUNDR HUSKEY
FOR MORE INFORMATION,
812-323-8959 ext. 2 or cassandra@magbloom.com.
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