



THE ILES FILES

The Newsletter of the Elijah Iles House Foundation

Ileshouse.org **October 2024**

FACEBOOK.COM/IlesHouse/

Students from Ashikaga, Japan, Visit the Iles House

Photo & story by Logan McMinn

During a 10-day visit to Sister City Springfield, on August 30, seven students in nursing or engineering from Japan's Ashikaga University toured the Iles House for an hour under a program organized by the UI Springfield Office of Engaged Learning, headed by Dr. Jessica Flynn. Ashikaga is in Tochigi Prefecture, about 50 miles north of Tokyo. Linda Garvert led the students through the four main-floor rooms, with Dr. Kazunari Shimada, Professor of Linguistics and Director of Liberal Arts Studies, acting as interpreter. *L to r: Nozomi Suzuki, Ayano*



Kamura, Hana Kobayashi, Haruka Dobashi, Linda Garvert, Haruto Mashio, Masahara Akao, Kanata Kato, Dr. Flynn, and Dr. Shimada.

Holiday Open House — Add to Your Calendar Now

It takes our volunteers a lot of time to get the lovely old house ready for the holidays, so we ask that our members and visitors do the same — plan ahead!

Friday and Saturday, **December 13th and 14th**, 2024, will find the doors open and the festive feel as strong as ever. On Friday you will be greeted at the historic Greek Revival front between 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. On Saturday the hours will also be 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

As always, there will be warm cider, sweet treats, house tours, and this year we will offer live music on both nights. Linda Garvert, Iles House curator and chief decorator, will be deck the 4 main-floor rooms with trees and other fare that each re-create a different decade, in style and mood, of the 19th century.

Open Saturdays, Noon to 4:00 p.m., April 27 to November 2, 2024. 628 S. 7th St., at Cook St.
Mail: EIH Foundation, P.O. Box 144, Springfield, Ill. 62705 Videos, etc.: ileshouse.org Ileshouse1998@gmail.com

Scenes from Clara Irwin's July 4th, 2024, Strawberry Party

... Those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer ...



Above: Peaches & Bacon performed all afternoon (William Wilkie and Elizabeth Buchta). *Upper right:* Volunteers from the crowd read the Declaration of Independence in 31 sections. *Lower right:* Did someone say “Ice cream with shortcake?”

All photos by Logan McMinn

A Step Forward

Visitors will sometimes notice that the stairway going down to the lower level Farrell and Ann Gay Museum of Springfield History is not as brightly lit as it is at other times. This problem results from the late season, and / or cloudy days, when not as much light comes in the two east-facing windows.

The house did not always have this feature. The original back door was right there at the top of the basement stairs — you can see today that a fill-in panel occupies that frame. When the current back porch was added around 2002, to accommodate the elevator, we lost that door-light. Now, thanks to the handywork of Logan McMinn and Dave Barringer, the steps leading downstairs have new traction strips on them, and the lighting overhead has been improved. Thank you, handymen.

Strawbridge-Shepherd House, Before and After

Just kidding: You do not want to see what this window looked like 'before' Damon Dennis of Illinois Builders re-made it this summer, along with much roofing, flooring, interior and exterior painting. The old is new again.



Is your membership current?

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Dear Friends — **Please renew your membership** for 2024-2025. We know that some of you have abided by the old custom of renewing at the time of the Strawberry Party on the 4th of July, and those renewals are tracked and counted, too. Whether it has been 1 year, or 18 months, or more, since your last note to us, thank you for keeping us in your plans. A separate Dick and Ann Hart Memorial Fund is also accounted for.

Elijah Iles House Foundation, P.O. Box 144,
Springfield, Illinois 62705

Membership categories:

Individual	\$25	Household	\$50
Benefactor	\$100	Steward	\$500
Trustee	\$1,000		

The EIHF is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization in the State of Illinois. It operates only with volunteer help and through private donations.

Funding Our Future

One more *memorial gift* to the Dick and Ann Hart Memorial Fund arrived just after we went to press with the June newsletter. We can now thank Diana and James Eyre of Wheaton, Illinois.

These recent donors and renewers of their memberships also merit our thanks. The Elijah Iles House Foundation relies entirely on private gifts and volunteer help, receiving no assistance from government bodies at the local, state, or federal level.

John E. Daly

Richard F. Herndon

Kathleen Hoffmann

Connie Sims

Gary Stevens

Ron Stevens

Name :

Address :

City, State, Zip:

Email or phone:

Elijah & Malinda say 'thanks'!

Elijah Iles House Foundation
P. O. Box 144
Springfield, Illinois 62705

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Extended Hours This Fall;
and See Page 1 for Holiday Open House Evenings

Due to popular demand, the Iles House regular Open House tours will run longer into the autumn season this year. We had announced that Oct. 12th would be the final Saturday of the year; instead, guests for house tours will be welcomed up **through Saturday November 2nd.**

The regular hours still apply: We'll open at noon and close at 4:00 p.m. Bring the family, bring friends, bring your memories of beautiful old and ever-remade Springfield!

And just to underscore what is coming up, Holiday Open House with Candlelight Tours will take place on **Friday December 13th and Saturday December 14th.** See page 1 for the hours and details.



The Elijah Iles House Foundation board: David Barringer (president), James M. Cornelius, Bill Furry, Richard F. Herndon (membership), Mark McDonald, Logan McMinn (v.p.), James W. Patton III, Ron Stevens (treasurer), Connie Sims (secretary), and Kay Smith.