

# FOR THE PEOPLE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

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SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

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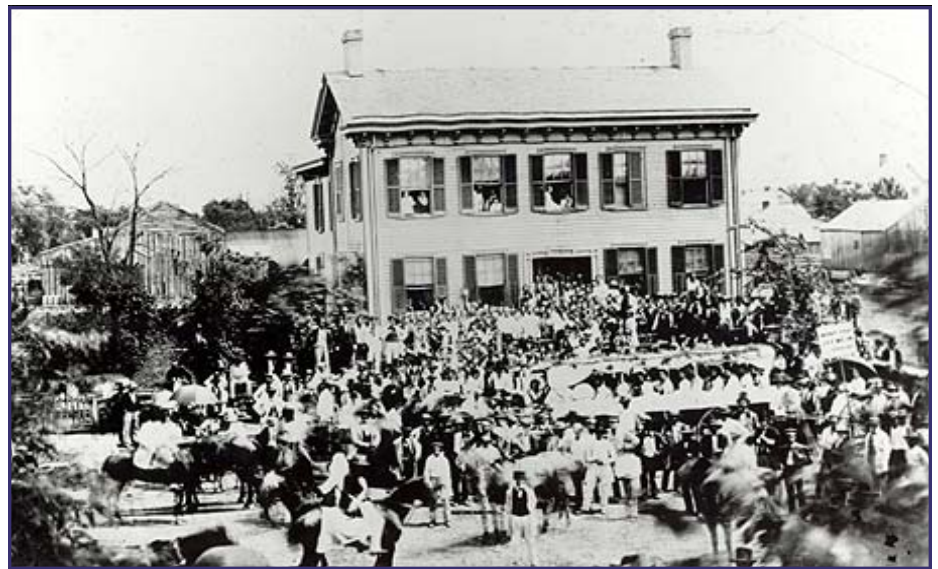
## SPRINGFIELD CAMPAIGN RALLY OF AUGUST 8, 1860: TWO RECOLLECTIONS

Thomas F. Schwartz, Secretary  
The Abraham Lincoln Association

One of the most recognized images of the pre-presidential Lincoln shows him in a white summer suit, standing in the doorway of his Springfield residence while a parade of supporters march past. A float with thirty-three young ladies dressed in white, representing the states of the Union, is in the foreground with a small buggy attached with another young lady in white carrying a sign “Won’t you let me in—Kansas,” a reference to the troubled territory. It was a day full of festivities. The following two recollections come from different observers, but both were friends.

George Brinkerhoff came to Springfield in 1859 to teach at Illinois State University, a private subscription school that Robert Todd Lincoln attended. Brinkerhoff later helped organize the Springfield City Railway and the Springfield Iron Company. He also served in several governmental functions as Springfield’s City Comptroller and as the Illinois State Auditor.

His friend, Charles Wesley Keeley, worked for the railroad and also served in the Seventy Third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, recording his military experience in a diary he later privately published. Keeley’s recollections were first written in 1922 and sent to Brinkerhoff who penned the following note dated February 25, 1922: “Yours of recent date is before me and noted. I have received your paper and have read your interesting account. It is substantially correct.” The typescript that this transcription is de-



*Lincoln pictured in his white summer suit on the steps of his home while a parade of supporters march past during the August 8, 1860, campaign rally.*

*Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.*

rived from is dated March 1, 1928. Brinkerhoff died on September 9, 1928 at the age of 89. Whether prompted by Keeley’s 1922 recollection or written independently at an earlier date, Brinkerhoff’s son John provided The Abraham Lincoln Association access to a manuscript describing the same event. The transcription reproduced here is based on a typescript created on October 20, 1948.

### GEORGE BRINKERHOFF ACCOUNT

I came to Illinois in 1859 and soon thereafter became acquainted with Mr. Lincoln. Sometime in the late Fall I remember being invited to and attended a party of their friends—old and young people—at their home, and I well remember Mr. Lincoln entertaining a few of the

guests with some of his funny stories. Afterwards we had another party at Mrs. Lincoln’s sister’s home, Mrs. Wallace, and there I was one of a party to be entertained by Mr. Lincoln. He certainly was a good story teller.

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(continued from page 1)*

The week in 1860 the Republican National Convention was in session in Chicago and Mr. Lincoln remained at home here in Springfield. I saw him and talked to him quite a short time the day he was nominated. We had stirring times here after that date and on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August, 1860, the Lincoln Campaign was opened with one of the largest political gather-

## ***AN AMERICAN DREAM***

### **ALA and NAACP Join to Commemorate Centennials With Illinois Symphony Orchestra Performance of American Music and Words**

2008 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of both The Abraham Lincoln Association and the National Association for the Advancement for Colored People.

In February 1908 an impressive group of statesmen and scholars gathered in Springfield to celebrate the centennial birthday of Abraham Lincoln. This was the beginning of the ALA. In August of the same year, a bloody race riot occurred in Springfield. Seven African-Americans perished, including William H. K. Donnegan, a retired cobbler who made boots for Abraham Lincoln. The entire nation was shocked by such violence in Lincoln's home town. The riot led to the founding of the NAACP.

#### **Springfield and Bloomington Performances**

On February 11, 2008 and February 13, 2008, The Abraham Lincoln Association and the National Association for the Advancement for Colored People, Springfield and Bloomington Chapters, will commemorate their common centennials with a very special program titled *An American Dream*. These organizations have joined to commission the Illinois Symphony Orchestra to perform musical and narrative concerts in Springfield and Bloomington.

The narration will contain the words of Abraham Lincoln, Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, and Frederick Douglass. The music will be American music from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The concerts will include local choirs singing 19<sup>th</sup> century American songs.

On Monday, February 11, 2008, the concert will be presented at 7:00 pm. at Sangamon Auditorium on the campus of the University of Illinois at Springfield. At 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, the concert will be repeated at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts, in Bloomington, Illinois. These concerts will be open to the public and will include performances by choirs from both cities.

#### **School Concerts**

In addition, two school concerts will be given in each community. A curriculum about the founders of the Civil Rights Movement and the terrible riot in Springfield that played an important part in the founding of the NAACP will be given to the teachers to prepare the students for the musical and narrative content of the concert.

Further details and ticket information will be announced in the near future.

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## MR. PRESIDENT, HOW IS THE WAR GOING?

### ALA Sponsors Presidential Press Conference

Abraham Lincoln, Portrayed by George Buss, Meets the Press on October 4, 2007

Mr. President, how is the war going—sound familiar? President Abraham Lincoln will hold a Press Conference at the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois, on Thursday, October 4, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. Preceding the event, at 6:00 p.m., there will be a reception. Both events are free and open to the public.

#### Lincoln Meets the Press

George Buss, renowned Lincoln presenter, will portray Lincoln as he fields questions from present-day members of the Springfield media. Members of the media will question the President about 1860s topics that may sound eerily familiar to those of today---the progress of the war, the economy and political infighting.

George Buss has portrayed Lincoln for many years. Over the last 15 years he has appeared nearly 400 times before local, state and national audiences, including portrayals at Ford's Theater in Washington D. C., Gettysburg, Atlanta and New Orleans. He appeared in the 1994 *C-Span Lincoln Douglas Debates*.

#### School Appearances

Mr. Buss will appear as President Lincoln in several Springfield classrooms on October 3 and October 4, where the students will question the President in the press conference format. He will answer their questions and tell them about Lincoln.

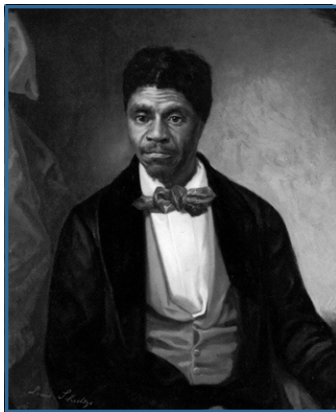
Mr. Buss will speak at the Shriners Club Luncheon on October 3 and the Sangamo Club on October 4.



*George Buss portraying Abraham Lincoln*

Please plan to attend one of the Press Conferences.

## DRED SCOTT DESCENDANT TO SPEAK



*"Dred and Harriet (his wife) had the courage to pursue it over 11 years and put their lives on the line. We owe them to see this through."*

*Lynne Jackson*

Lynne Jackson, the great, great granddaughter of Dred Scott, will be the featured speaker at a luncheon to be held at the Sangamo Club in Springfield on October 12, 2007. The event commemorating Dred Scott on the 150th anniversary of the Dred Scott decision is sponsored by The Abraham Lincoln Association, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and the Central Illinois Women's Bar Association. For information contact Don Tracy at 217 544-8491. For reservations call Julie Kelner at 217 544-1793.

Dred Scott lost his freedom after a series of appeals, with the final decision from the U.S. Supreme Court on March 6, 1857, saying blacks had no rights. That decision 150 years ago also opened the door for slavery to spread into the Western territories, a major contributing factor to the Civil War.

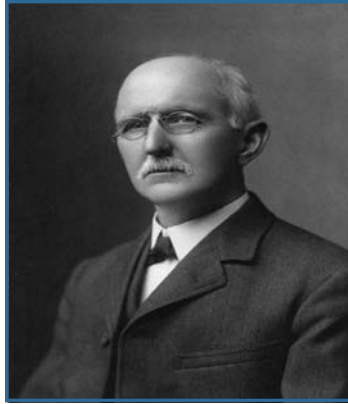
Lynne Jackson, who lives in St. Louis and is the general services manager in the St. Louis law firm of Bryan Cave, LLP, recently spoke about her great, great grandfather to the National Association of Attorneys General in Washington, D. C. "My father told us a lot about the case and how getting a good education is our legacy. Our family was never one to walk around and say, 'We're related to Dred Scott.' We were taught our responsibility today – the courage to do what's right." Jackson recently created The Dred Scott Heritage Foundation, which hopes to erect a statue in Dred Scott's honor.



ings in the United States up to and since that time that has very seldom been equaled. People came one and two hundred miles in carriages, wagons and on railroad trains (we had not many railroads in those days) to see and hear—especially to see Mr. Lincoln, the Railsplitter Candidate of the Republican Party for President of the United States.

We had many meetings during the Campaign but none to equal this one. It was estimated by competent judges that there were not less than 75,000 people here. The procession was some five or more miles long and in the procession were wagons with people splitting rails, building rail fences, hunting coons with hounds and printing presses printing the news of the meeting and scattering these sheets along the streets. We had many marshals at this meeting and I delivered him at the afternoon meeting at the old County Fair Grounds located near by the New High School grounds.

This I did and I took Robert Office as my companion, and went to Mr. Lincoln's residence where we found him awaiting the carriage provided for him and our arrival as his escort. We took him to the meeting and onto the speaker's platform where he made a short speech, and the only one, as has been stated, he made during the campaign. After the meeting was over we got Mr. Lincoln to his carriage where the crowd's and insistent demands of the people culminated in the breaking down of our carriage. After this it was necessary to return Mr. Lincoln to his home on horseback and in the melee he lost his hat. In the meantime a "Wide Awake" belonging to a Chicago Company found it and arriving at Mr. Lincoln's residence just as we did, returned the hat to its owner. Mr. Lincoln was very much pleased at this attention and told this enthusiastic "Wide Awake" that if he would bring his entire company to his residence (as it now stands at the corner of Eighth and Jackson Streets) he, Mr. Lincoln, would shake hands with all the members of the company. At 6:30 that evening the entire company



*George M. Brinkerhoff photograph by Victor George.*

*Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.*

visited Mr. Lincoln who did meet and shake hands with them all.

I was with Mr. Lincoln many times during the campaign and we felt sure he would be elected and were not disappointed. I was with a large crowd with Mr. Lincoln in the old State House (now the Sangamon County Court House) the night of the election. We were a boisterous crowd but entirely sober. This room is still in use and we have had Lincoln Day celebrations in it and it is the same room in which Mr. Lincoln made his celebrated "A House Divided Against Itself Cannot Stand."

#### CHARLES W. KEELEY ACCOUNT

##### ***"THE GREAT LINCOLN HOME COMING RALLY AT SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, AUGUST 8, 1860"***

During the forenoon, Mr. Lincoln gave two receptions: I was present at both; the first at the old State House; the second at his home, where Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln received the public on the portico, after they had passed through the years, and through the house. The great procession was then passing.

Perhaps the most imposing display came from Williamsville, Sangamon County. Several platform wagons were lashed together, on which was a Lincoln Log Cabin, Lincoln Rails, a Smithy shoeing a horse, men hewing and splitting, and women spinning and knitting. The outfit was drawn

by sixteen yoke of oxen. Mr. Lincoln's time was well occupied with shaking hands, and bowing to the marchers, but he found time to laugh when the ox team display spread out before him. Col. John Williams was Grand Marshal and conducted the procession to the old fair grounds, where five or more speaker's stands had been erected. When I arrived, John M. Palmer was speaking from the stand near the entrance. A covered carriage halted directly in front of the stand, which contained Mr. Lincoln and three others, escorted by two mounted men, George Brinkerhoff, assistant Marshal, charged with the care of Mr. Lincoln's person, and Robert Officer. Mr. Lincoln was not permitted to remain a spectator. He was taken out of the carriage, carried and placed on the stand. So many Wide Awakes took position on the stand that it was broken down. Fortunately no one was injured. When the stand was righted Mr. Lincoln stood up and said: "Well, I am right end up!"

*(Continued on page 5)*

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Then followed the few and only words spoken by Lincoln in the campaign of 1860. "My fellow citizens, I appear before you on this occasion with no intention of making a speech. It has been my purpose since I have been placed in my present position, to make no speeches. This assemblage having been called together at the place of my residence, it appeared to be the wish of those constituting this assembly to see me: and it is certainly my wish to see you. I appear on the ground here at this time only for the purpose of affording myself the best opportunity of seeing you and enabling you to see me. I confess with gratitude, be it understood, that I did not suppose my appearing among you would create the tumult which I now witness. I am profoundly grateful for this manifestation of your feelings. I am gratified because it is a tribute which can be paid to no man as a man: it is the evidence that four years from this time you will give a like manifestation to the next man who is the representative of the truth on the question

that now agitates the public, and is because you will then fight for this cause as you do now, or with greater ardor than now, though I be dead and gone, that I most profoundly thank you. Having said this much, allow me now to say that it is my wish that you will hear the public discussion by others of our friends who are here for the purpose of addressing you, and that you will kindly allow me to be silent.”

Mr. Lincoln was then returned to the carriage in the same manner in which he was taken out and the carriage moved to the rear among the small trees surrounded by a boisterous cheering crowd which gained in force as it proceeded. Seeing that it was headed for the exit, I took a position at a point where I thought it would pass, and anchored myself to a sapling. When the carriage arrived directly opposite me, less than four feet away, it could proceed no farther. Fortunately the Marshall procured a third saddle horse which he brought up on the left side of the carriage between my anchor and the carriage headed the same way. Mr. Lincoln stepped out and owing to the want of space was compelled to mount the horse on the wrong side, which he did with some effort. I was enabled

to take a memory sketch of Mr. Lincoln as he was sitting in the saddle, bareheaded and looking down at the horse. The escort forced a passage for his escape and then Mr. Lincoln's horse was led up between the other two and they passed out from the grounds at a lively gait.

Mr. Brinkerhoff, writing me of the event later, said: “Mr. Lincoln was moderately excited but calm holding on to the saddle as we led the horse. People followed well up the street. One man, of greater endurance than the others, kept pace with the riders and reaching the Lincoln Home about the same time, went in and asked to shake hands with Mr. Lincoln. Mr. Lincoln's hat was brought him at his home. The determination of the people that day to see and hear Mr. Lincoln was something fearful.”

## YOU ARE INVITED TO BECOME A MEMBER

Please join the over 800 members of The Abraham Lincoln Association whose memberships make possible the Association's activities. As a member, you will receive the Association's semi-annual *Journal* and quarterly newsletter, *For The People*. Become one of this generation's patrons of the greatest American story—the story of Abraham Lincoln.

Student.....\$25  
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Call toll free for more information: (866) 865-8500 or  
 Email Mary Shepherd at [maryshepherdala@gmail.com](mailto:maryshepherdala@gmail.com)

## MICHAEL BESCHLOSS 2008 BANQUET SPEAKER



Presidential historian Michael Beschloss will be the speaker at The Abraham Lincoln Association's centennial banquet to be held on the evening of February 12, 2008, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. Beschloss is the author of numerous books on American Presidents and has recently authored the best seller, *Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How They Changed America, 1789-1989*.

Beschloss was born in [Chicago](#) and was educated at [Andover](#), [Williams College](#), and [Harvard University](#). He majored in [political science](#) at Williams and earned an MBA at [Harvard Business School](#). Beschloss appears frequently on [PBS](#) and [ABC](#). He is the [NBC News](#) Presidential Historian.

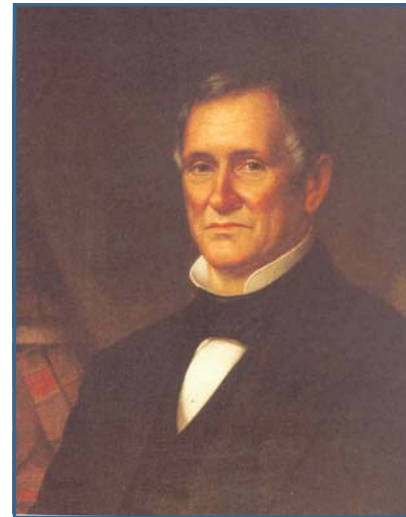
## ALA HELPS FUND MEMORIAL FOR JUDGE SAMUEL H. TREAT

Judge Samuel H. Treat, a good friend of Abraham Lincoln who presided in many of Lincoln's legal cases, is buried in Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery without a head stone. Under the leadership of Judge Richard Mills, The Abraham Lincoln Association has joined with the Illinois Bar Foundation to help fund a memorial stone for the grave of Judge Samuel H. Treat.

The ALA has challenged the Illinois Bar Foundation to raise money at their fall golf tournament, which the ALA will match 3 to 1 up to \$2,500. If this is met, the \$10,000, along with what has already been raised will be sufficient to purchase and install the monument. The Illinois Bar Foundation golf outing will be held at Illini Country Club on Monday, September 10. For more information, call 312-726-6072.

Judge Treat came to Springfield, Illinois in 1834. By 1840 he was a Judge on the Eighth Judicial Circuit. In 1841 he was elected to the Illinois Supreme Court as a Justice. He eventually became Chief Justice, and remained in that position until 1855. At that time he became Judge of the United States District Court, a position he held until his death in 1887. In 1857 he compiled *The Statutes of Illinois, Embracing All of the General Laws of the State*. Lincoln and Treat enjoyed playing chess together.

If you would like to contribute to this effort, please send your contributions to the ALA marked "Judge Treat Memorial."



## DAVIS, FRAKER and TOWNSEND JOIN ALA BOARD

**Robert Davis**



**Robert Davis** is a Fiscal Officer at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, in Springfield. He has taught at Lincoln Land Community College and the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Mr. Davis serves on the Board of Directors of the Sangamon County Historical Society and is affiliated with the Springfield Urban League. He is a student of the Underground Railroad and the Civil War. He is well known as a Civil War reenactor and in particular for his one man presentation about an African-American soldier in the Illinois 29th Infantry. He has made many presentations to schools and civic groups.

Mr. Davis received his MPA from Princeton University and his MBA from the University of Chicago.

**Guy Fraker**



**G u y** Fraker is a practicing attorney in Bloomington, Illinois.

He is a Board Member of the Bloomington Jaycees, a Founding Director of the Parklands Foundation, a Member of the Board of the Illinois Chapter of the Nature Conservancy and a Past President of the McLean County Bar Association.

Mr. Fraker is also a life-long student of Abraham Lincoln and is recognized as an expert on the Eighth Judicial Circuit. He speaks frequently at Lincoln events and has authored many articles on Lincoln. He is a member of the Advisory Committee of the national Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

Mr. Fraker received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

**Tim Townsend**



**T i m**

**Townsend** is the Historian at the Lincoln Home National Park in Springfield. He plans and executes the Annual Lincoln Colloquium and the George L. Painter Lincoln Lectures. He conducts historical research for the interpretive films and teacher workshops and other Lincoln Home projects. He manages the park rangers who provide historic interpretation at the Lincoln Home site.

Mr. Townsend has worked on interpretive programming at the Old State Capitol, Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices, and Vachel Lindsay historical sites. He is a Past President of the Sangamon County Historical Society and serves on other historical boards.

Mr. Townsend received his BA in history from St. Ambrose University and his MA in history from the University of Illinois at Springfield.

### New Members

We welcome our new members.

**Helen Mae Almas**  
Bell, California  
**Reg Ankrom**  
Quincy, Illinois  
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Springfield, Illinois  
**John Coelho**  
Taunton, Massachusetts  
**James Cornelius**  
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**Alex Kramer**  
Coraopolis, Pennsylvania  
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Longmeadow, Massachusetts  
**Charles J. Kurland**  
Glencoe, Illinois

**Alice Lamb**  
Champaign, Illinois  
**Bruce Ladd, Jr.**  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
**Tonia Neustifter**  
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**Judith Goby-Oxtoby**  
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**John Qua**  
Springfield, Michigan  
**Bill R. Smith**  
Brentwood, Tennessee

**Natalie Sweet**  
Tazewell, Tennessee  
**Phillip Trobaugh**  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
**Elizabeth A. Van Steenwyk**  
Paso Robles, California  
**David Walker**  
Chappaqua, New York

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**DAY BY DAY****CALENDAR OF COMING ALA EVENTS**

September 10, 2007		Illinois State Bar Foundation Golf Outing ALA Challenge Grant for Judge Treat Memorial Illini Country Club, Springfield
October 3, 2007	12:00	George Buss, Lincoln impersonator, presentation at Springfield Shriners meeting.
October 4, 2007		George Buss, <i>Lincoln Press Conference</i> , Springfield:
	8:30	Presentation at Iles Magnet School
	12:00	Luncheon, Sangamon Club
	6:00	Reception, Old State Capitol
	7:00	Press Conference, Hall of Representatives, Old State Capitol
October 12, 2007	12:00	Dred Scott Commemoration Lynne Jackson speaking at luncheon at Sangamo Club
	2:00	ALA Board of Directors Meeting, Springfield
February 11, 2008	1:00	<i>Symposium</i> , Hall of Representatives, Old State Capitol, Springfield
	7:00	Illinois Symphony Orchestra performance of <i>An American Dream</i> Sangamon Auditorium, University of Illinois at Springfield
February 12, 2008	10:00	ALA Board of Directors Meeting, Springfield
	1:00	<i>Symposium</i> , Hall of Representatives, Old State Capitol, Springfield
	6:00	<i>Lincoln Day Banquet</i> , 100th Anniversary of ALA Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield
February 13, 2008	7:00	Illinois Symphony Orchestra performance of <i>An American Dream</i> Bloomington Center for Performing Arts, Bloomington

**FOR THE PEOPLE**

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