**For Immediate Release: One Book One Springfield Community Book Club**

## First Book: *The Soloist*

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Join your fellow community members in our very first community-wide book celebration—One Book One Springfield (OBOS).

Sponsored by the Springfield Community Foundation, Springfield High School, and the Free Library of Springfield Township, One Book One Springfield is a community book club initiative. The program's mission is to promote reading throughout the community, to foster an ongoing community dialogue about important issues that emerge from the literature we read, and to strengthen community connections by building new relationships and bolstering existing ones.

The first book in this year's One Book One Springfield series is *The Soloist*: *A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music* by Steve Lopez.

*The Soloist* is the story of Lopez, a columnist for *The Los Angeles Times*, and Nathaniel Ayers , the homeless, schizophrenic musician whom he meets playing a two-string violin on L.A.'s Skid Row. Ayers, a former Julliard student, not only became the subject of Lopez's next column, he becomes his friend. The men change and enrich each other's lives.

Community members are encouraged to pick up a copy of *The Soloist* at the Township library where over 20 copies are in stock, at Amazon, or at a local bookstore. There are also 20 copies for students to read at the Springfield High School library.

Plan to attend any of the following events:

- April 2 – 7:00PM in Springfield High School Library – Psychology teacher Barry Weidner leads a discussion on mental illness and schizophrenia relating to *The Soloist*.

- April 16 – 7:00PM in the Free Library of Springfield Township Community Room – Montgomery News Editor Joe Barron leads a discussion of journalism issues relating to *The Soloist*
- April 30 – 7:30PM in a location TBA – Project H.O.M.E. Special Projects Coordinator Will O'Brien leads a discussion on homelessness and *The Soloist*
- May (?) TBA @ 7:00 PM One Book One Springfield@the Movies: a re(a)d carpet event! Join us at the Ambler Theater for a special showing of the new movie *The Soloist* starring Jamie Foxx and Robert Downey Jr.
- May 20 – 7:00PM @ Springfield High School – Culminating event for One Book One Springfield focusing on the redemptive power of music and the arts. This event will include discussion, as well as student artists and performers!

Discussions of *The Soloist* will also continue online @ http://onebookonespringfield.ning.com. Our Ning will include related media; discussion questions from community leaders; additional resources and readings; and an online forum for community discussion, responses, and reflection.

One Book One Springfield will continue with a new book choice for next fall.

We hope that this year's One Book One Springfield activities will begin an exciting tradition that will continue beyond the events planned for *The Soloist,* and bring our community together through a continued focus on reading.