



American Folklore Society News

APRIL 2007/Volume 36, Number 2

Nominating Committee Seeks Candidates

The American Folklore Society 2007 Nominating Committee invites and encourages members to submit the names of individuals to be considered as candidates for the Executive Board and Nominating Committee in the 2007 AFS Election. Terms for the three seats on the Executive Board and the one seat on the Nominating Committee run for three years (2008-2010). The senior member of the Nominating Committee will serve as chair during the last year of her/his term.

Any member of the Society may suggest any other member for nomination. In selecting its initial slate of candidates, the Nominating Committee considers (1) candidates' awareness of the issues facing the Society at the present and their expression of willingness to work with the President, the Executive Board, the Executive Director and the membership in formulating sound policies and programs to guide the Society in the coming years; and (2) a slate that is balanced with regard to the candidates' geographical distribution, present employment, ethnicity, race and gender.

This year's Nominating Committee is Amy Kitchener, Mario Montaña, Solimar Otero and AFS Executive Board Representative Elaine Thatcher. To suggest the names of potential candidates, or for more information, contact Amy Kitchener, Executive Director, Alliance for California Traditional Arts, 1245 Van Ness Ave, Fresno CA 93721; (559) 237-9813; akitch@actaonline.org. The deadline for suggestions is **May 1, 2007**.

The Committee will announce its initial slate of nominees in the August 2007 AFS News, after which members will have the opportunity to add names to that slate by petition. Candidates will appear in a Candidates' Forum as part of the business meeting at the annual meeting in Québec City. The Forum will include brief candidates' statements and opportunities for questions from AFS members. On-line balloting will take place after the 2007 annual meeting and will be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Meeting News

17th International Ethnological Food Research Conference

The 17th International Ethnological Food Research Conference will take place in Oslo, Norway, September 15-19, 2008. It will be organized by The Norwegian Museum of Cultural History in Oslo. The theme for the conference is *Cultural Crossroads. Food and Meals at Crossroads*.

Cultural Crossroads are intersections which imply meeting points, negotiations and choices with regard to food, drink and meals, historically and at the present time. Any of these aspects can occur in the context of heritage and innovation, nationality and cultural diversity, inter-generational or inter-ethnic groupings, or at work, school, or in institutions, to list but a few possibilities. Since the conference will be hosted by The Norwegian Museum of Cultural History, the Museum would like to also invite contributions which reflect on the role of museums as institutions with an obligation to conserve material and non-material knowledge, including that concerning food, drink and meals, and to transmit and present that knowledge to a wider community.

Further details about the conference can be obtained by contacting Dr Ann Helene Bolstad Skjelbred at: Ann.Skjelbred@norskfolkemuseum.no Or Patricia Lysaght President of The International Commission for Ethnological Food Research at: patricia.lysaght@ucd.ie.

Publication News

Institute for Cultural Partnerships Announces New Publication

The Institute for Cultural Partnerships (ICP), in collaboration with Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR) announces the availability of a new publication *The Art of Community; Creativity at the Crossroads of Immigrant Cultures and Social Services*. Compiled and edited by Laura Marcus, the publication presents diverse professional perspectives which vividly illustrate the successful merging of arts and culture with the social services in support of newcomer communities. Drawing upon personal experiences, the authors present five model projects that examine the traditional arts in relationship to such cultural integration issues as mental health, at-risk youth, economic development, and English language acquisition.

In the context of survival issues for newcomers, arts and heritage-based activities are seldom considered vital. Yet when arts and heritage-based approaches are applied to social service programs or when refugees and immigrants gain access to arts and cultural resources, the positive impact upon individual and community wellbeing is immeasurable. The case studies presented in *The Art of Community* were selected because they illustrate these successes in profound ways. The common thread among them is a collaborative approach that draws upon a community's diverse resources to create a nurturing environment for newcomer artistic and cultural heritage. The profiles are set in such contexts as arts and social service organizations, schools, museums, theaters, and a community garden. Each case study includes a "nuts and bolts" section providing details about the projects, such as budget, personnel hours, collaborators and funders, etc.

The Art of Community includes the following profiles:

My Journey Yours: Sharing Cultures Through Art. Bobby King, Independent Consultant and Former Executive Director of Refugee Family Services in Atlanta, Georgia, shares his personal revelations as an administrator seeing the impact of the arts on the women and children served by his agency. By incorporating arts in its programs, particularly youth activities and a sewing circle, RFS has enhanced the delivery of its services, established a relationship between refugees and mainstream organizations, and fostered a sense of community among its refugee clients, as well as the receiving community.

Changing Worlds: Immigrants and Oral History Across Generations. Bill Westerman, Director of the Cambodian American Heritage Museum and Killing Fields

Memorial, Chicago; writes about an educational arts organization whose mission is to foster inclusive communities through oral history, writing and art programs that improve student learning, affirm identity, and enhance cross-cultural understanding. Changing Worlds has become a resource for schools and communities through in-school partnership programs, professional development opportunities for teachers and outreach to broad audiences through traveling exhibitions and family programs. As they learn about their differences, students are engaged in learning, their identity is affirmed and an inclusive school and overall community climate is promoted.

Growing Community Roots: The Boise Refugee Community Garden Project. Patty Haller, Assistant Director at the Idaho Office for Refugees writes about the Boise Refugee Community Garden project, a collaboration between the Idaho Office of Refugees, Community Gardens of Boise and the AmeriCorps program. Two plots of land have been dedicated for cultivation by refugees from Somalia, Liberia, Afghanistan, Armenia, Sudan, Bosnia and Ukraine. Making garden space available helped people eat well, gave them a sense of continuity and well-being in a new country, and got family members out of the house to participate in a healthy activity and interact with others. Because gardening is a visible activity, the project has helped shine a positive light on the presence of refugees in the community.

When Community Stars Shine: Building Connection through the Arts. Victoria Patterson, Executive Director of Nuestra Casa/Mendocino Latinos para la Comunidad describes a recent collaboration with local performing arts groups, SPACE (School for Performing Arts and Cultural Education) and Ukiah Players Theater to produce the first all Spanish-language live production in Ukiah, California. *Noche de Estrellas* featured performers from 4 to 75 years of age in a wide variety of excellent performances that shattered pre-conceived stereotypes of local Latino artistic endeavors and allowed people to perform and see their community reflected onstage. The show included original songs, traditional music, contemporary modern dance as well as ballet folklórico, original poetry, comedic sketches and local history.

Domestic Voices: Using Oral History and Ethnography for Social Activism. For **Amy Skillman, Director, Arts and Heritage at the Institute for Cultural Partnerships** what began as a series of Story Circles in a local library grew into a regional educational initiative with an exhibit, a theater production and a new organization that nurtures leadership and confidence among newcomer women. The process of working together to collect oral histories and develop public programs has provided a safe place for these women to practice their English and struggle with ways to present their feelings. They have grown to understand that whether they came from Vietnam, Finland or Colombia, they have all had similar experiences.

The Art of Community was developed as a companion piece to ICP's earlier publication, *Newcomer Arts; A Strategy for Successful Integration; a manual for refugee and immigrant service workers and artists*. The manual, which has been revised for re-issue, emanated from ICP's series of national gatherings on building support for newcomer arts and cultures. *The Art of Community* will be disseminated nationally, and ICP will use both publications to facilitate community-based workshops presenting best practices and strategies for merging the arts and social services. The goal of the day-long workshop is to convene diverse professionals for interactive learning and networking that might sow the seeds for future collaboration among participants. ICP is also developing conference panels to be presented at arts, social service, or philanthropy convenings to build awareness of collaborative models for serving newcomer communities.

The Art of Community and related programs are made possible through generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts. The Ford Foundation and publication partner GCIR have also provided critical funding for *The Art of Community*.

The *Art of Community* is being offered free to AFS members until June 30, 2007 (\$12 thereafter). To order your copy or learn more about the publications, the accompanying workshop, or conference panel, please contact the Institute for Cultural Partnerships (ICP). ICP is a non-profit organization whose mission is to facilitate understanding among diverse individuals and communities. <http://www.culturalpartnerships.org>

Call for Articles: *Voices: Journal of New York Folklore*

Do you have research on folklore topics that you would like published in *Voices: Journal of New York Folklore*? We are soliciting articles focusing on folk groups and folklore of New York State. However, the editor welcomes articles based on the folklore of any area of the world if it is relevant to the study of folklore in New York. The journal publishes research-based articles written in an accessible style on topics such as narrative, play and games, festival, traditional music, public folklore, folk arts in education as well as articles on theory and methodology. We also have a new section for Creative Non-fiction and Ethnography. For initial submission, please email brief abstract to Faye McMahan, Acquisitions Editor mcmahofr@stu.lemoyne.edu or frmcmaho@maxwell.syr.edu. The deadline for submissions is **November 1, 2007**. All inquiries are answered promptly. Submissions are acknowledged on receipt. The editor and two anonymous readers review manuscripts. Feature articles range from 1,000-4,000 words. We are especially interested in photo essays with high resolution photographs (scanned at 300 dpi+ quality for publication). More information and online abstracts from past issues of *Voices* can be accessed at: <http://www.nyfolklore.org>

AFS Datebook

2007

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| April 13-14 | Ethnomusicology in the World Conference, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana (see October 2006 AFSN p. 10) |
| April 20-22 | Folklorists in the South Retreat, 20 th Anniversary, Palm Key Resort, Ridgeland, South Carolina (see February 2007 AFSN p. 5) |
| April 26-29 | IASPM Canada and IASPM-US 2007 Joint Conference, Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts (see October 2006 AFSN p. 11) |
| May 23-27 | Perspectives on Contemporary Legend International Conference, Utah State University, Logan, Utah (see December 2006 AFSN p. 16) |
| June 1 | Deadline for submissions, The Richard Reuss Prize for Students of Folklore and History (see December 2006 AFSN p. 21) |
| June 25-July 6 | SIAS Summer Institute, Stanford, California, USA (see December 2006 AFSN p. 17) |

- August 1 Deadline for submissions, Raphael Patai Prize in Jewish Folklore and Ethnology (see December 2006 AFSN p. 21)
- Sept. 20-22 ISFNR Interim Conference on Folk Narrative and Society, Santa Rosa, La Pampa, Argentina (see December 2006 AFSN p. 18)
- Oct. 17-21 AFS Annual Meeting, Hilton Québec

2008

- June 16-20 SIEF 9th Congress, University of Ulster, City of Derry, Northern Ireland
- June 30-July 11 SIAS Summer Institute, Collegium Budapest, Budapest, Hungary (see December 2006 AFSN. 17)

American Folklore Society News

Editor: *Brent Björkman*, American Folklore Society, Mershon Center, Ohio State University, 1501 Neil Avenue, Columbus OH 43201-2602 USA; bjorkman.2@osu.edu

AFS President: *Bill Ivey*, Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy, 204 Alumni Hall, Vanderbilt University, Nashville TN 37240

AFS President Elect: *Elaine Lawless*, Department of English, 107 Tate Hall, University of Missouri–Columbia, Columbia, MO 65211-1500

AFS Executive Board:

Bill Ellis (2007), Pennsylvania State University, Hazleton PA 18202

Sandy Rikoon (2007), Department of Rural Sociology, Gentry Hall 120, University of Missouri, Columbia MO 65211

Elaine Thatcher (2007), Mountain West Center for Regional Studies, Utah State University, 0735 Old Main Hill, Logan UT 84322

Diane Goldstein (2008), Folklore Department, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada A1B 3X8

Dan Sheehy (2008), Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, PO Box 37012, Victor Building, Suite 4100, MRC 953, Washington DC 20013-7012

Kay Turner (2008), Brooklyn Arts Council, 33 Washington Street, Suite 218, Brooklyn NY 11201

Lucy Long (2009), American Culture Studies/International Studies, 127 Shatzel Hall, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green OH 43403

Guba Shankar (2009), American Folklife Center, Library of Congress LJ-G59, 101 Independence

Avenue SE, Washington DC 20540

Patricia A. Turner (2009), Office of the Provost, University of California, 1 Shields Avenue
Davis CA 95616

Olga Nájera-Ramírez (2009), University of California, Santa Cruz, Department of Anthropology,
Social Sciences 1, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064

AFS Executive Director: *Timothy Lloyd*, American Folklore Society, Mershon Center, Ohio State
University, 1501 Neil Avenue, Columbus OH 43201-2602 USA; lloyd.100@osu.edu

AFS Web Site: www.afsnet.org

AFS Membership Committee: Chair TBA

AFS Nominating Committee: *Amy Kitchener*, Chair, Department of Anthropology, California State
University, 18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge CA 91330-8244; sabina.magliocco@csun.edu

AFS Publications Committee: *Judy McCulloch*, Chair; University of Illinois Press, 1325 South Oak
Street, Champaign IL 61820-6903

Editors, *Journal of American Folklore*: *Harris M. Berger* and *Giovanna P. Del Negro*, Department of
Performance Studies, Mail Stop 4240, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843-4240 USA;
jafolklore@tamu.edu

The *American Folklore Society News* (ISSN 0745-5178) is published online bimonthly by the
American Folklore Society, Mershon Center, Ohio State University, 1501 Neil Avenue, Columbus,
OH 43201-2602. All American Folklore Society members receive *AFSN*, with \$19 of their dues
designated for it. Nonmember subscriptions cost \$25. Periodicals postage for institutional
subscriber copies paid at Columbus OH, and additional offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Editor's address shown above.

Copyright © 2007, The American Folklore Society